CONQUEST PACKS UP ITS OPERATIONS, PG 15

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TORONTO • THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2009
metronews

Celebrity pg 45

Mel not happy on the home front

Comment pg 14

The power of potions for love

Sports pg 18

Quest for Stanley starts

World pg 10

Tax protests brew in U.S.

EARTH DAY: APRIL 22
GoGreen

In honour of Earth Day on Wednesday, Metro is providing you with ways you can go green and lessen your environmental footprint.

HOMES. Why a growing number of people are unplugging their refrigerators. Page 23.
HOMES. How more and more urbanites are growing their own food. Page 30.
STYLE. Accessories that are fashionable and ecologically responsible. Page 34.
FOOD. Barb Holland presents an eco-gastronomical — and very Canadian — recipe. Page 37.

TOMORROW MOVIES. Think you know the planet you live on? Then you may be surprised when you see Disney's Earth.

MICHAEL STUPARYK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Jamie Kirkpatrick of the Toronto Environmental Alliance and singer Sarah Harmer are shown at a media conference yesterday at Toronto city hall. Harmer and the TEA want the city to use recycled gravel, sand and stone for future building projects.

It's the pits: Critics

Environmentalists urge halt to digging new quarries

With Greater Toronto poised to start an infrastructure building boom, environmentalists say it's time for politicians to require the use of recycled gravel, sand and stone in projects instead of digging new quarries on prime land.

"While a bag of stones or gravel may look fairly benign, the process of getting it to us is anything but benign," warns a Toronto Environmental Alliance report released yesterday. "(It's) mined from the Earth, either dug out of pits or blasted out of quarries."

And the impact of digging huge holes on the Niagara Escarpment or Oak Ridges Moraine is significant, affecting water supply, destroying wetlands, plant and aquatic habitats as vegetation, topsoil and subsoil are removed, the report adds.

Projections are the region will need 1.5 billion tonnes of gravel for roads, bridges, sewers and buildings in the next 25 years. If only new stone were used, it would create the equivalent of a hole six storeys deep from The Kingsway to Greenwood Avenue, and from Bloor Street to the lake.

EARTH DAY: APRIL 22
Go Green

Singer Sarah Harmer believes if people realized their basements were being constructed from rock carved out of a precious ecological area, they would want politicians to act, the report suggests.

"I do believe we are at a turning point," said Harmer, who has opposed a plan to expand a quarry near her family's Burlington home. "We know water is a finite resource, and these ecosystems are irreplaceable."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The nice approach for visitors

"Welcome to Toronto. We see that you're parked illegally, and respectfully request that you try to follow our parking rules during the rest of your visit."

That's the type of notice the city is considering placing on illegally parked cars with out-of-province plates, rather than continue to issue tickets that are unlikely to be paid.

The city received payment on only 16 per cent of the 113,781 tickets issued to visiting vehicles last year, says a staff report tabled yesterday to the government management committee. Councillors asked staff to study the idea of issuing notices rather than tickets in such cases and report back in November.

If payment doesn't come voluntarily, the city has virtually no option for enforcing it, the committee was told.

Because the city has been unable to access data held by jurisdictions outside Ontario, it can't find the name or address of a vehicle's owner to try to collect the outstanding fine.

"It's pretty hard to collect, but when you don't have that information, it's impossible," said acting city treasurer Giuliana Carbone.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TORSTAR PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

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House fire in city's east end

Firefighters extinguished a two-alarm fire at a house on Munford Crescent, a small residential street southwest of Victoria Park Avenue and St. Clair Avenue East. There are no reports of any injuries. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Jackson cleared of wrongdoing

Embattled Vaughan Mayor Linda Jackson, left, has been cleared of conflict-of-interest allegations for participating in a closed-door council session involving a lawsuit that was to be filed against two of her critics. The ruling, by Justice Jane Kelly of the Superior Court of Justice, is one piece of good news for Jackson, who has been besieged by several audits and court actions involving her office expenses and allegations of election finance irregularities. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Parks and Recreation
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Tomorrow's Metro

Movies

Metro reviews Zac Efron's newest movie 17 Again, which opens Friday.

metronews.ca

What's online today.

Blogs Check out Lisa Tant from Flare Fashion.
Video Robert Dziekanski's mother marks her son's birthday by laying flowers at the Vancouver airport at **metronews.ca/canada**
Blogs Style columnist Kenya Hunt calls for an end to the Ugg craze.

Lotteries

Lotto 6/49: 6, 13, 23, 34, 41 & 43. Bonus 27.
Ontario 49: 2, 7, 19, 22, 29 & 40. Bonus 6.
Ontario Pick 3: 7 7 8; Ontario Pick 4: 5 6 7 4
Encore: 9831028
Daily Keno: 7, 9, 12, 19, 29, 30, 37, 39, 41, 45, 47, 48, 50, 54, 56, 57, 58, 62, 64, 67.
These results are not official.

Justices of peace in spotlight

No formal legal training needed to fill job that can pay more than $150K

They can grant bail to people charged with violent crimes, approve police search warrants for private dwellings and, while presiding over traffic court, can impose fines and short jail terms.

But given all that power, a justice of the peace needs no formal legal training for a job that can pay more than $150,000 annually

And if that is not enough money, with written permission, a justice of the peace can moonlight, which is what Vernon Albert Chang Alloy, who made $178,000 in 2008, does as a real estate agent in Brampton.

Chang Alloy has also been in the news recently after being accused of making "unwanted physical contact with a another justice of the peace by inappropriately touching her in a sexual manner" on two occasions in 2006. He faces a hearing May 11 and could lose his job.

$150K More than 200 of Ontario's 350 JPs earned more than $150,000 in 2008 while 300 of them made more than $100,000.

Meanwhile, justice of the peace Jorge Barroilhet, who made $155,079 in 2008, is alleged to have had "an inappropriate interest in, contact with, and involvement with paralegal services," reads a summary of the allegations.

A public hearing into the matter resumes in June.

The government refuses to say how many moonlighting JPs there are, but promises to disclose that information when the Justices of the Peace Review Council tables its first annual report in the legislature sometime this year. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Electricity rates set to go up on May 1

ENERGY Ontario's electricity regulator says rates will go up May 1, but only marginally.

The Ontario Energy Board says prices for residential customers will increase by 0.1 per cent next month, adding about $1 to an average monthly electricity bill.

However, May 1 is also the date when the threshold for the lowest electricity price is lowered to 600 kilowatts from 1,000, which the board says will add another $3.60 to monthly bills.

Consumers will pay 5.7 cents per kilowatt hour for the first 600 hours, and 6.6 cents per hour for anything above that level.

The threshold for the lowest price rises back to 1,000 kilowatt hours Nov. 1, the next time the board sets electricity prices for the season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Contracts

- People who have signed long-term contracts with private electricity companies are not affected by the regulated price plan set by the board, which regulates Ontario's electricity sector and adjusts prices twice a year.

Mirvish Way **Great man honoured**

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

As David Mirvish looks on, Anne Mirvish holds a replica of a street sign yesterday as local Coun. Adam Vaughan applauds after a section of Duncan Street, off King Street West, was renamed "Ed Mirvish Way" to honour the late businessman, philanthropist and theatre impresario.

Find out about hospitals online

HEALTH A new website comes online today with a promise to minimize bureaucratic jargon and offer health consumers a user-friendly way to find out information about their local hospitals.

The site, www.myhospitalcare.ca, has been established by the Ontario Hospital Association, a group representing the 155 hospital corporations in Ontario. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

LAW Shahin Pirouzi, who was arrested for second-degree murder in a stabbing death last April — with eyewitnesses — had the charge against him withdrawn yesterday. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Man charged with luring girls into sex trade

A man has been arrested in connection with the luring of two underage girls into the sex trade. Joshua Owusu-Ansah, 19, is facing numerous charges. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Teen at C.W. Jefferys found with handgun

Arrest made at site of Manners' shooting

A 16-year-old boy carrying a loaded handgun was found inside C.W. Jefferys Collegiate yesterday.

He has been charged with 12 offences including carrying a concealed weapon, unauthorized possession of a firearm and failure to comply with probation.

The youth, who cannot be named under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, was a student at the school, police say.

The arrest was made at 9:55 a.m. and the school did not go into lockdown mode.

"In this case, there was no threat made to staff or students at the school," said Kelly Baker, a spokesperson for the Toronto District School Board. "The police are the ones that issue lockdowns … and they have a list of criteria."

In May 2007, 15-year-old Jordan Manners was gunned down inside the Sentinel Road school. His death sparked a review of school safety and has led to a number of changes in the system, including designated officers being assigned to certain schools. Jefferys does not have an officer specifically posted on campus.

Mark Pugash, a spokesperson for Toronto police, said that while these "resource officers" — or so they're called — have proven extremely effective, they are not a guarantee that crime will never happen.

"They are there to build relationships with staff and students," he said. "And (the feedback) we've been getting has been excellent."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Pay up to sell used CDs: City

LICENCE The City of Toronto thinks you need to be protected from the likes of Peter Genest.

His trade: Dealing mostly in new records, with a few second-hand CDs, out of a shop on Bloor Street West near Ossington Avenue.

The city's demand: Cough up $555 for a special licence to sell second-hand goods.

For Genest, who has been scraping a living from his small shop for the past two years, it's a sudden and unexpected demand for cash he can't readily afford.

And neither he, nor politicians who make the city's bylaws, can think of a reason why he should have to.

When asked whether he could think of any reason why a shop selling used CDs should need a special licence from the city, Councillor Howard Moscoe, who chairs the city's licensing and standards committee, replied in a single word: "No."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TONY BOCK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Peter Genest runs a shop, Hits and Misses, on Bloor Street West, that sells mostly new CDs, with some used CDs and records. He is being hassled by the city, saying he needs a special license to sell second hand goods, even though many shops do not have them.

News in brief

FRAUD A Brampton woman has admitted she forged $23,000 worth of invoices for playground, restaurant and computer equipment for an Oakville daycare. Elizabeth Govia, 55, also admitted yesterday she kept $18,000 worth of payments from parents of children enrolled at the Bronte Village Children's Day Care Centre.

ROBBERY A 33-year-old Ajax man is expected to recover after he was beaten and robbed near a shopping mall by men armed with a knife, a crowbar and a sword.

CHASE A 23-year-old man from the Brantford area faces a string of charges following a high-speed chase on the QEW that ended in Mississauga. Both the suspect and a police officer were taken to hospital with minor injuries.

METRO NEWS SERVICE

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Mississauga mayor hopeful utility dispute can be resolved

Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion remains hopeful that a long-simmering dispute with the minority shareholder in the city's hydro utility, Enersource, can be resolved by May 6. Negotiations are supposed to take place until May 6 when city council will get an update. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Paraplegic can't sue insurance company

A Toronto mother of three left paralyzed after a high-profile drive-by shooting lost her bid yesterday to sue her car-insurance company for benefits.

In a ruling on Louise Russo's claim under part of her auto policy, the province's top court found her bodily injury could not be directly linked to an inadequately insured motorist.

"Automobile insurance does not cover injuries caused by robbers inside a bank even though the driver of the getaway car may be legally liable ... for the damages suffered," the court said in its ruling.

In April 2004, Russo, then 45, parked outside a California Sandwiches restaurant, left her daughter in the car and ducked inside to grab a snack.

Outside, gunfire erupted in what was later determined to be a deliberate attempt on the life of a patron seated in the restaurant.

A bullet fragment hit Russo in the spine, leaving her paraplegic.

Evidence later emerged that Mark Peretz drove the van towards the front of the restaurant and his two passengers, Antonio Borrelli and Paris Christoforou, opened fire from the parking lot using a Colt semi-automatic rifle and a handgun.

Russo made a claim against her auto insurance company under the OPCF endorsement, or family protection coverage, which covers injury caused by an under-insured motorist.

The insurance company, the Personal, argued Russo's injuries did not result "directly or indirectly from the ownership, use or operation" of an automobile.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Has Adoption Touched Your Life?

On June 1, 2009, Ontario adoption records will be opened.

visit www.ontario.ca/adoptioninfo

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT REMINDER that if you were involved in an adoption in Ontario, your information and privacy rights are changing.

Effective June 1, 2009, Ontario adoption records will be opened. This means adopted adults and birth parents will be given access to identifying information from birth records and adoption orders.

If the adoption order was made before September 1, 2008, adopted adults and birth parents can file a disclosure veto to prevent the release of the information.

If you want your identifying information kept private, **you should file a disclosure veto before June 1, 2009.**

No contact notices are also available.

To learn more about your rights to information and privacy regarding adoption, **visit www.ontario.ca/adoptioninfo or call 1-800-461-2156 (TTY 416-325-3408).**

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CAW won't make more concessions

AUTO The Canadian Auto Workers union has no plans to stray from a previously established pattern when it sits down again with negotiators from Chrysler next Monday, despite a threat from Fiat that it could walk away from a potential alliance with the troubled automaker.

Ken Lewenza said the union is willing to help Chrysler find cost savings in other ways, but won't give any more labour concessions than it did in its agreement with General Motors, which is estimated to save the automaker about $7 per hour and which GM CEO Fritz Henderson has said makes the company competitive with non-unionized plants.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadians saving more: Study

MONEY More Canadians are setting aside money for a rainy day in the current recession compared to the boom times of two years ago, a new survey shows. A survey for HSBC suggests 84 per cent of Canadians have some savings put aside for the future or an emergency. That's up from 67 per cent two years ago.

The survey showed Albertans are the best with their money, with 92 per cent saying they have some savings, followed by Manitoba and Saskatchewan at 89 per cent, Ontario at 86 per cent, B.C. at 84 per cent and Quebec at 80 per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

COURT Oliver Carroll has been ordered to pay almost $50,000 in costs arising from the conflict of interest case that ousted him from the Toronto Catholic District School Board. Justice Jane Kelly, calling Carroll's misconduct "serious and indefensible," gave the former trustee six months to pay $46,420.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Teen dies of injuries
A 17-year-old hurt in a Burlington car crash Monday has died in hospital. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Organized web crime 'booming'

Cyber criminals continued to form "pseudo corporations" and hired people to compromise high-traffic, trusted websites last year, resulting in threats growing dramatically on the Internet in 2008, says a report from Symantec Inc.

The threats primarily targeted the confidential information of computer users, such as credit card information.

The number of advertisements for illegal credit card information in the underground online economy increased 32 per cent from 21 per cent in 2007, Symantec spokesman Marc Fossi said yesterday.

"Business is booming for them," Fossi said of the digital thieves.

Cyber criminals have organized groups and the increased activity is related to the fact that people are paid to write malicious code, Fossi said.

The cyber crime organizations can have different "business units," he said, adding some people are hired to create spam email, others to write malicious computer code and yet others to create phishing web pages to steal personal information.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MICHAEL STUPARYK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Patricia McKenzie, who says she has gone days without eating, waits her turn at Agnes MacPhail Food Bank on Lumsden Avenue.

Two-thirds of city's low-income families going hungry: Report

STUDY Like almost one third of families in Toronto's poorest neighbourhoods, Patricia McKenzie has abandoned the mainstays of modern life for a far more basic staple: Food.

The Dawes Road resident would likely find no surprises in a new University of Toronto study that suggests two out of three families in the city's poorest neighbourhoods are unable to get enough to eat.

"And 28 per cent of those were in a category that we would call 'severe food insecurity'," says study co-author Sharon Kirkpatrick, who helped conduct the research as part of her U of T doctoral thesis.

"They had indicators ... of food deprivation and actual reduction in food intake. Things like cutting or skipping meals and going a whole day without food being the most extreme," Kirkpatrick says.

The study surveyed 500 families in 12 neighbourhoods designated as being among the city's poorest.

The study was conducted between October 2005 and January 2007; Kirkpatrick says the economic downturn has worsened the problem.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Ontario propane audit uncovers more than 800 safety offenders

VIOLATIONS An audit of nearly 1,500 small propane facilities across Ontario found 35 sites that posed an immediate hazard, and more than 800 that were not in compliance with all safety regulations.

The audit by the Technical Standards and Safety Authority was done after last summer's explosion at Sunrise Propane in Toronto, which left two people dead and forced 12,000 people from their homes.

A total of 816 of the smaller facilities — mostly corner stores that sell propane — were in non-compliance, including 35 that the agency said posed a hazard. Those violations included minor leaks, inoperative safety valves, improperly trained staff or invalid operating licences.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Petro-Canada brings axe

Petro-Canada is laying off about 200 oilsands employees throughout Alberta. Spokeswoman Kelli Stevens says the workers were connected to the stalled Fort Hills oilsands project north of Fort McMurray. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Iggy denies tax hike comment

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff denies saying he would have to raise taxes to pay off a soaring deficit, but he's not completely ruling out such a move either. Ignatieff was reported to have made the comment at a Chamber of Commerce meeting in Cambridge on Tuesday, but when asked about it yesterday, he told reporters he said "no such thing."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dad can't wait to see daughter

SunnySide

FOUND The father of a Montreal girl who turned up in Vancouver more than two years after she disappeared says he can't wait to bring her home.

Frank Gonis couldn't believe it when police told him his 10-year-old daughter, Ashley, called 9-1-1 last Friday from a pay phone at a SkyTrain station.

"I almost had a heart attack, I had to hold something (because) I was going to fall down," Gonis said yesterday. "It's very exciting."

He struggled to find words to describe what he has gone through since Ashley vanished in January 2007.

"You don't know if she's alive or dead," said Gonis, who made a public plea last summer for help in his quest to find her.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

BEARS Weather is forcing officials to wait until today to try to tranquilize an injured polar bear in Newfoundland. The bear appeared to have an injured rear leg.

FLOODS With parts of Manitoba's Red River Valley now a massive lake, many farmers wonder whether the land will dry out for this year's crops.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cops make major biker bust

More than 150 arrested as part of massive crackdown on Hells Angels

Police say they took a major bite out of the Hells Angels yesterday after arresting more than 150 people as part of a massive international crackdown on the outlaw biker gang.

Some 1,200 police officers were involved in Operation Sharqc, with most of the arrests taking place throughout Quebec.

Four others were made in the Dominican Republic, one in France and five in New Brunswick.

Daniel Guerin, a spokesman for the Montreal-area Laval police department, said 111 full-patch members were nabbed, while four others were prospective members.

Another 29 were associates of the criminal organization and 11 were retired bikers.

Many of them were expected to appear in court later yesterday.

Guerin described it as a significant bust.

"The total number of full-patch members, if not the entire membership of the Hells Angels, was arrested today," he said.

Long record

- The alleged crimes, which include murder, attempted murder, conspiracy to commit murder, drug trafficking and gangsterism, occurred between 1992 and 2009.

RCMP Sgt. Claude Tremblay said a full-patch member of the notorious biker gang and four of his associates — all in their 40s and 50s — were arrested in New Brunswick.

Police also seized a quantity of guns and drugs from the suspects, who were allegedly involved in the transport of drugs between Quebec, the United States and the Maritimes.

"New Brunswick is the corridor to the Maritimes and everything comes through our highways and we have a lot of small airports through the region," Tremblay said.

"There's a lot of trafficking going on. It's mostly related to underground crime and a lot of it is run by the Hells Angels," he added. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Taser victim's mother pays her respects

B.C. Robert Dziekanski's mother marked what would have been his 42nd birthday by laying flowers at Vancouver's airport, where he died following a fateful encounter with RCMP.

Zofia Cisowski flew in from her home in Kamloops, B.C., and left flowers, two candles and a get-well-soon card near where her son collapsed and died on the floor of the airport arrivals area.

Dziekanski had been stunned several times with a Taser by Mounties, who were summoned after he'd started throwing furniture.

Dziekanski was emigrating from Poland and planned to join his mother here in Canada.

Airport staff escorted Cisowski into a secure area through the same doors her son is seen blocking on an amateur video of the incident.

A public inquiry into Dziekanski's death continues. THE CANADIAN PRESS

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Robert Dziekanski's mother, Zofia Cisowski, places a card and flowers yesterday near the spot where her son died as she marks what would have been his 42nd birthday at Vancouver International Airport in Richmond, B.C. Dziekanski died after being stunned with a Taser five times.

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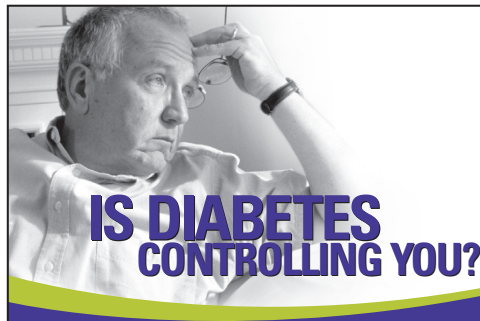

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Saskatchewan hires U.S. lobby group
Saskatchewan has hired a new U.S. company to pitch its case on energy and other issues in Washington, D.C. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Schreiber says he paid Mulroney $300,000

Arms dealer Karlheinz Schreiber says he kept paying Brian Mulroney for nearly a year and a half to lobby for a controversial armoured vehicle project — even though Mulroney's party had lost power and the former prime minister never explained exactly what he was doing to earn the money.

Schreiber, testifying for a second day at a public inquiry, rejected a suggestion that the payments could have been for "past services" performed by Mulroney during his time in power. He said he kept hoping that "sooner or later" Mulroney would be of use to him.

"He was more or less waiting for his moment to do something," he told the commission headed by Justice Jeffrey Oliphant.

Schreiber has testified that he struck a deal with Mulroney, just before he stepped down as prime minister in June 1993, to lobby for a proposal by Thyssen AG to build German-designed light-armoured vehicles in Canada.

According to Schreiber, a first payment of $100,000 was made in August 1993, a second in December 1993 and a third in December 1994 for a total of $300,000.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

No paper trail

- Schreiber said he never asked Mulroney for any receipts, account statements or invoices. Nor did he ask him to provide a detailed explanation of what he was doing in return for the cash.

Ottawa **Goodall partners with First Nations**

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jane Goodall leaves Parliament Hill with Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca MP Keith Martin yesterday following a media conference. Goodall announced a new partnership between the Jane Goodall Institute and Assembly of First Nations for the introduction of the Jane Goodall Institute's Roots & Shoots global youth action program to First Nations communities across Canada.

News in brief

QUEBEC A Sikh teen from Quebec has been given an absolute discharge after his conviction on one charge of assault with a hairpin. The judge also acquitted the 13-year-old on two other assault charges — including one that stemmed from the alleged use of a ceremonial dagger. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Missing girl's mother shows frustration with investigation

WOODSTOCK The mother of Victoria Stafford is calling on police to treat the eight-year-old girl's disappearance as an abduction.

Tara McDonald's words of frustration come one week after the girl went missing after leaving school in Woodstock, Ont.

Police are investigating Victoria's disappearance as a missing persons case and have not called it an abduction.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Louisiana man pleads guilty to threatening to kill Bush

A Louisiana man has pleaded guilty to threatening to kill former U.S. president George W. Bush. A plea agreement recommends that Gregory Broussard, 45, serve six months in prison with credit for time already served and six months in a halfway house. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Nobel winner wants Hamas

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Martti Ahtisaari says Hamas should be part of any peace process in the Middle East. The former Finnish president says all parties that command popular support should sit around the negotiating table. Ahtisaari says the international co-operation to tackle the global economic crisis has created a "unique opportunity" to solve conflict in the Middle East. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Radical Pakistani cleric gets bail

INSURGENCY Pakistan's Supreme Court ordered the release on bail yesterday of a hardline cleric who was detained as soldiers stormed his radical Red Mosque in 2007.

Maulana Abdul Aziz was arrested as he tried to sneak out of the besieged mosque dressed in a burka. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

N. Korea expels nuke inspectors

REACTOR North Korea celebrated the birthday of late founding father Kim Il Sung yesterday as it prepared to restart its nuclear reactor by expelling UN inspectors. The International Atomic Energy Agency experts removed all seals as well as cameras before leaving, a diplomat said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Backlash brewing

Tea bag protests target U.S. spending, taxes

Thousands of Americans took to the streets in so-called tea bag protests across the United States yesterday, angry about massive economic stimulus spending and what they perceive as rising taxes under President Barack Obama.

Hope

- The U.S. Federal Reserve says there are faint signs the steep plunge in American economic activity is starting to level off after five of 12 regional banks reported a moderation in the pace of the economic decline.

But on a day simply known as Tax Day in the United States, a bigger concern for millions more was the complicated and inefficient American taxation system that makes Canada's look like a well-oiled machine by comparison.

The tax code hasn't been significantly simplified since 1986. But Obama chose Tax Day — April 15, the last day for Americans to file their federal tax returns — to reassure frazzled citizens that change was on the horizon. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAROLYN KASTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protesters hold signs in the rain yesterday during a tax day protest on the steps of the Capitol in Harrisburg, Pa.

Pirates targeting U.S. ships, French capture 11 hijackers

ATTACK Pirates vowed yesterday to hunt down American ships and kill their sailors, a day after an abortive attack on a U.S. freighter loaded with food aid.

Pirates fired grenades and automatic weapons at the Liberty Sun, but its American crew blockaded themselves inside the engine room. The ship was damaged but escaped and was heading to Kenya under U.S. navy guard. A pirate whose gang attacked the aid ship admitted that his group was targeting American ships and sailors.

French forces, meanwhile, launched an early morning attack on a pirate mothership after spotting it Tuesday with a surveillance helicopter. The raid thwarted the bandits' planned attack on the Liberian cargo ship Safmarine Asia, the French Defence Ministry said.

Pirates released the Greek-owned cargo ship Titan yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

TAMILS Sri Lankan forces resumed attacks on Tamil guerrillas yesterday after a two-day ceasefire aimed at letting civilians flee the war zone, a pro-rebel website and a doctor in the conflict zone reported.

PRISONER A Guantanamo Bay prisoner, Mohammed el Gharani, used his weekly phone call to his family to speak with an Al-Jazeera journalist who previously was a Guantanamo inmate. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Car bomb kills 11 Iraqi security guards in Kirkuk

A car bomb exploded yesterday near a police convoy in the northern Iraqi oil city of Kirkuk, killing at least 11 government security guards and wounding about 20 other people, police said. The city is the focus of an ethnic power struggle. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Marital law protesters stoned

Hundreds of Afghans swarmed a demonstration of more than 100 women protesting yesterday against a new marriage law they say restricts wives' rights.

The women were pelted with small stones as police struggled to keep the two groups apart.

The law, passed last month, says a husband can demand sex with his wife every four days unless she is ill or would be harmed by intercourse — a clause that critics say legalizes marital rape. It also regulates when and for what reasons a wife may leave her home alone.

Women's rights activists scheduled a protest yesterday attended by mostly young women. But the group was swamped by counter-protesters — both men and women — who shouted down their chants.

Some picked up gravel and stones and threw them at the women, while others shouted "Death to the slaves of the Christians!" Female police held hands around the group to create a protective barrier.

Women protesting the law said many of their supporters had been blocked by men who refused to let them join the protest.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MUSADEQ SADEQ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Afghan police officers stop Shiite counter-protesters in Kabul, Afghanistan, yesterday after a rally by 100 women was swarmed.

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714 million eligible to vote in India

ELECTIONS Thousands of troops fanned out across parts of India yesterday, a day ahead of elections to determine who will lead the country as the global economic slump threatens to undo two decades of growth.

Today's voting is the first of five phases that will span a month. Some 714 million people — more than twice the population of the U.S. — are eligible to cast ballots.

Opinion polls indicate that neither the ruling Congress party nor the main opposition, the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, will win enough seats in the 543-seat lower house of parliament to rule on its own.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iran eyes way to break impasse

NUCLEAR Iran's president said yesterday he is willing to build a new relationship with the United States and is preparing new proposals aimed at breaking the impasse with the West over Iran's nuclear program.

The speech by hardliner Mahmoud Ahmadinejad took an unusually conciliatory tone at a time when U.S. President Barack Obama's administration has signalled it wants to reach out to Iran and start a dialogue. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

EARTHQUAKE Italy's interior minister has estimated that at least $16 billion US will be needed to reconstruct the central Abruzzo region ravaged by an earthquake more than a week ago.

COLOMBIA A notorious drug lord and right-wing paramilitary leader who topped Colombia's most-wanted list has been captured, the government said, announcing the arrest of Daniel Rendon, accused of offering his assassins a bounty for each police officer killed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment & Views

Comment

Marketing spray-on trust

Relating

Steve Collins

metronews.ca/collins

As scientists continue to scrutinize human relationships at the molecular level, marketers do the same thing they've always done with each new discovery.

Example: The hormone oxytocin, which is believed to contribute to human bonding and feelings of trust. Women produce it during breastfeeding and orgasm.

In a recent University of Bristol study, test subjects were dosed with either an oxytocin nasal spray or a placebo, then shown a series of photographs of people and asked to rate the faces.

"We found that oxytocin administration increased ratings of trustworthiness and attractiveness of male and female targets in raters of both sexes relative to control ratings, suggesting that higher levels of this neuropeptide may enhance affiliative behaviour towards unfamiliar others," the authors wrote, possibly in a state of profound excitement. It's hard to tell.

On the web

- For more views on relating, go to Love Bytes at metronews.ca/blogs

The profit-minded read stuff like this and register only two words: Love potion! Indeed, there is already a spray on the market purporting to harness the power of oxytocin, Vero Labs' Liquid Trust. It sells for $50 a bottle, enough to render you irresistible for two months.

They're so confident it works they offer a 60-day, money-back guarantee. Trust us, they say. And, once hopped up on oxytocin, how could you not?

The good people at Vero don't judge. Whether you're using their magic trust juice to boost your love life or your monthly sales, they know that in today's go-go world there's no time for the tedious process of actually earning trust. Just spray and go.

Putative aphrodisiacs have a long and undistinguished history, and hucksters have been working on pheromonal versions for years. While it could be argued that such biological social warfare is no more manipulative than cologne or teeth-whitening strips, spiking a potential mate's brain chemistry seems a little more insidious.

Ethical considerations aside, one would think that the wearer would be as susceptible to the spell of oxytocin as anyone else, walking around in a blissed-out cloud of indiscriminate attraction.

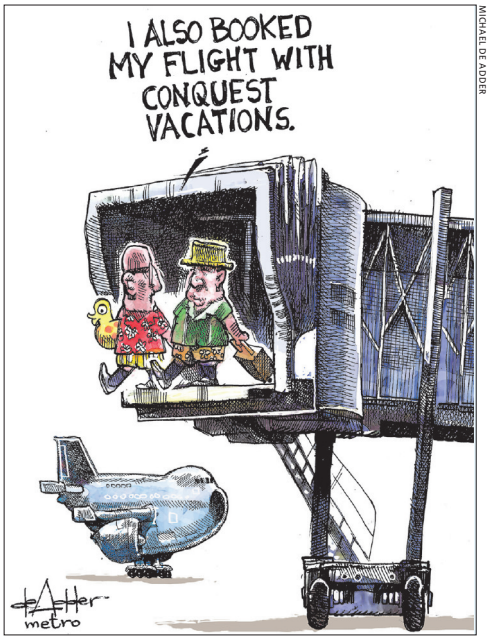
One could purposely dose oneself with Liquid Trust in order to fall for the person you think you should, even if your instincts seem to militate against the hook-up. Eliminate the drudgery of arranged marriages with our fast-acting spray!

Those already in rocky relationships could perhaps save themselves the trouble of either working on their problems or splitting up with a well-placed spritz of this chemical bonding agent.

But what would happen if everyone used it, flooding the neurochemical market with ersatz love? Would we still recognize the real thing? Would the real thing still exist?

Did it ever?

Steve Collins offers his best guesses on relationships for Metro every two weeks.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Worth mentioning

Students could be facing drug testing at school

CIVIL RIGHTS A Manitoba school board contemplating drug and alcohol testing for students in all grades is coming under fire for what critics say would be an infringement on privacy rights.

The controversial idea comes from a Flin Flon principal who wants to find a way to deter students from coming to classes drunk or stoned.

School trustees thought it was worth looking at saliva and breathalyzer tests for board employees and students who appear to be under the influence, said superintendent Blaine Veitch.

The testing, which the board believes would be the first of its kind in Canada, could act as a deterrent or help principals confirm suspicions if students reeked of alcohol or displayed "erratic behaviour," Veitch said.

But the board wasn't prepared for the scrutiny and legal implications, Veitch said. The idea is now being researched by a policy committee, which is expected to make a recommendation within the next few months.

Views

Learn to save or learn to like dog food

InBusiness

Charles Davies

It would be nice to believe economists who say this recession is fundamentally changing Canadians, making them spend less and save more. After all, there's been a recent decline in credit card use and a rise in the personal savings rate. In the fourth quarter of 2008, people were saving 4.7 per cent of their disposable income on average, the highest level since 1995. Profligate grasshoppers appear to be turning into thrifty ants.

Don't believe it.

Once happy days are here again, Canadians are more than likely to resume their extravagant ways. The reckoning may be put off until a wave of baby boomers retires to the horror of lingering indebtedness and insufficient income.

Sure, credit card use is slipping right now, but it isn't just because card holders have been scared into temporarily spending less. Credit card issuers, primarily the big banks, are restraining market growth because they fear that delinquencies will mean surging losses on their credit card portfolios. Losses on Canadian credit cards rose above three per cent of average balances during the third quarter of 2008 (the seventh straight quarterly rise) and it's a fair assumption that things are worse now. Of late, banks have significantly increased the amount of money they set aside to cover potential card losses.

But once the recovery takes hold, banks and other issuers will aggressively market cards again because they're so lucrative. CIBC, the country's biggest issuer with outstanding balances of roughly $14 billion, had credit card revenues of $1.75 billion last year, an amount substantially greater than the bank makes from mortgage and personal lending combined. Long-term growth has been phenomenal. As of this January, the outstanding credit card balances of Canadian banks totalled $52 billion, more than five times greater than a decade ago.

Expect compulsive spending disorder to recur, weakening our already recessive savings gene. The recent blip in the personal savings rate cannot mask the fact that it has been falling steadily since the 1980s, when it was close to nine per cent of disposable income. By 1998, it was a shockingly low 0.7 per cent. Canadians have ample reason to save. Public pensions and benefits are modest and company pensions hardly provide adequate retirement income, but so far they've shown scant inclination to consistently put money aside. Either they develop some serious savings discipline, or acquire a taste for Alpo.

Charles Davies is a veteran business writer and editor who has worked for news organizations and publications including Business Week, Canadian Business, Report On Business magazine, Reuters, and Financial Post.

Metro Online Poll Results

14% SAID YES	Should public funds pay for gender reassignment surgery? *Weigh in on today's question at metronews.ca*	86% SAID NO

It's your turn to tell others what you think. Email your thoughts and opinions to: torontoletters@metronews.ca

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

METRO Toronto 1 Concorde Gate, Suite 703, Toronto, ON M3C 3N6, Tel: 416-486-4900; Fax: 416-482-8097; Advertising: 416-486-4900 ext. 316 • adinfotoronto@metronews.ca; toronto_distribution@metronews.ca; News: jim.reyno@metronews.ca

Burger King's shares drop by whopping 14 per cent

Burger King Holdings shares dropped 14 per cent or $3.18 to $19.50 US on the New York Stock Exchange yesterday after the hamburger chain's third-quarter revenue came in below analyst estimates. Burger King also said traffic at its outlets fell sharply in March. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

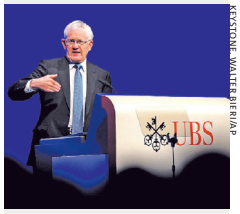
DOLLAR		
0.74¢	C$	83.11¢ US
	US$	$1.2032

OIL	
$49.25 US	16¢

TSX	
9,246.11	14.49

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Swiss bank



KEYSTONE/WALTER BIERI/AP

Kaspar Villiger, chairman of UBS AG, speaks to shareholders in Zurich yesterday after Switzerland's largest bank announced plans to cut 8,700 jobs worldwide by next year.

Home sales still on upward trend

HOUSING The Canadian Real Estate Association says the number of existing homes sold last month was down 13.5 per cent from March 2008, but continued an upward trend that began in February.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Conquest shuts down

Travel company Conquest Vacations Inc. has gone out of business, effective immediately, a victim of the global recession, as fewer Canadians plan sunshine vacations and buy travel packages.

The Toronto tour operator said yesterday it regrets the problems caused to its customers by the move, but the shutdown was necessary because of tour industry overcapacity and price wars that have made it difficult to make money.

The abrupt collapse of the privately-owned company isn't expected to strand Canadian travellers who are already on vacation, and consumers who have booked flights and paid for them are expected to receive full refunds.

Conquest competes with Transat AT of Montreal, Sunwing and Sunquest vacation operators, as well as the packaged travel businesses of WestJet Airlines and Air Canada, the country's two dominant airlines.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Background

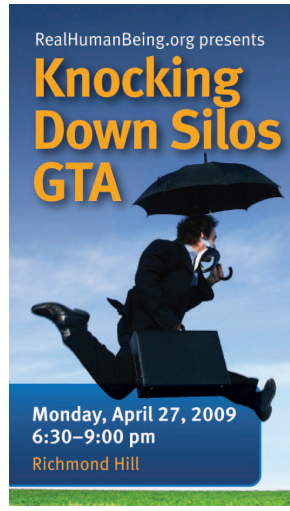
- Conquest, with offices in Toronto and Vancouver, has been providing tour services since 1972 and carries about one million travellers a year to Britain, Europe, Florida, the Caribbean, the Bahamas, Cuba, Mexico, Central America and the U.S.

Business in brief

SHARES Truck customization company Drive Products Income Fund has decided to suspend its distributions as it contends with challenges from the recessionary environment. Trading in the Toronto-based firm's units was halted on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

ECONOMY Consumer prices in the United States dipped unexpectedly 0.1 per cent in March, leaving inflation over the past year falling 0.4 per cent — the fastest clip in more than a half-century.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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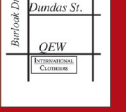
Woodbridge — Piazza Del Sole

Ancaster — Meadowlands Power Centre

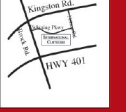
Ajax — Durham Regional Centre

Markham — First Markham Place

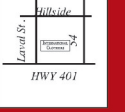
Oakville — Burlook Power Centre



Pickering — Shops of Pickering



Oshawa — Oshawa South Centre



Aurora — Aurora Power Centre

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Canuck third in Belgian cycling race

Dominique Rollin of Canada finished third yesterday in the Scheldeprijs/Grand Prix de l'Escaut cycling race in Belgium. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Dice-K to DL

Boston Red Sox pitcher Daisuke Matsuzaka was placed on the 15-day disabled list yesterday with a mild right shoulder strain. Matsuzaka didn't make it to the second inning Tuesday against Oakland, giving up five runs and five hits on 43 pitches. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Rangers Cap Washington

STANLEY CUP 2009 **Playoffs**

With the score tied in the third period, the New York Rangers did what they do best — kill off a power play. Then Markus Naslund popped out of the penalty box and set up the winning goal.

Naslund fed Brandon Dubinsky, who made a move that left Jeff Schultz sprawled on the ice and beat goalie Jose Theodore inside the near post with 8:17 remaining. The goal lifted the Rangers to a 4-3 victory over Alex Ovechkin and the Washington Capitals in Game 1 of their Eastern Conference playoff series.

PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York's Brandon Dubinsky, left, celebrates his goal with Markus Naslund last night in Washington.

PENGUINS 4, FLYERS 1

The Pittsburgh Penguins got a goal and an assist each from Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin and shut down the frustrated Philadelphia Flyers' fleet of scorers for a 4-1 victory and a 1-0 lead in their series.

DEVILS 4, HURRICANES 1

Zach Parise and Jamie Langenbrunner each had a goal and an assist and New Jersey Devils showed they are over their late-season swoon with a dominating 4-1 victory over the Carolina Hurricanes. Martin Brodeur came within 11 minutes of tying Patrick Roy's record for career playoff shutouts at 23 before Ray Whitney scored on a rebound.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For a full recap of game 1 of the Blues-Canucks series, visit **metronews.ca**

NAM Y. HUH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chris Bosh goes up against the Bulls' Brad Miller in Chicago last night. Bosh had 19 rebounds to go with 21 points in Toronto's season finale. The Raptors' final record was 33-49.

And that's a Rap

NBA RESULT

Raptors 109 Bulls 98

VS CHICAGO BULLS

Chris Bosh scored 21 points and came one rebound short of setting a Raptors franchise record last night as Toronto wrapped up a disappointing playoff-free season with a 109-98 victory over the post-season-bound Bulls in Chicago. Shawn Marion led all scorers with 34 points, while Jose Calderon chipped in with 14 points and 14 assists.

The Bulls needed a win or a loss by Philadelphia to lock up the sixth seed in the Eastern Conference and a first-round matchup with Dwight Howard and the Orlando Magic. Otherwise, they were looking at defending champion Boston with the seventh seed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Long off-season begins

- With Raptors president and general manager Bryan Colangelo heading to New York for a board of governors meeting, the team cancelled a shootaround yesterday so Colangelo could have some one-on-one "exit meetings" with the players.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MacTavish out in Edmonton

NHL As the NHL playoffs kick off, the Edmonton Oilers are once again on the sidelines and head coach Craig MacTavish is paying the price. The team fired MacTavish yesterday after missing the post-season for the third straight year. General manager Steve Tambellini said the team needed a fresh start behind the bench. "He gave everything he possibly could to help this team get better," Tambellini said. "But we both agree that it is time for a change."

MacTavish

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blue Jays Minnesota bats

ANN HEISENFELT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Adam Lind, left, and Scott Rolen celebrate after Rolen's two-run home run in Minnesota last night. For a complete game recap, visit www.metronews.ca/sports.

SCOREBOARD

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

TORONTO 109 Chicago 98
New York 102 New Jersey 73
Milwaukee 108 Indiana 115
Memphis 98 Atlanta 90
Boston 115 Washington 107
Dallas 95 Houston 84
Sacramento 97 Minnesota 90
Orlando 98 Charlotte 73
Detroit at Miami
New Orleans at San Antonio
Philadelphia at Cleveland
Denver at Portland
Golden State at Phoenix
Oklahoma City at L.A. Clippers

END OF REGULAR SEASON

MLB

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Detroit 9 Chicago White Sox 0
Cleveland 5 Kansas City 4
Boston 8 Oakland 2
N.Y. Yankees 4 Tampa Bay 3
Colorado 5 Chicago Cubs 2
St. Louis 12 Arizona 7
N.Y. Mets 7 San Diego 2
Florida 10 Atlanta 4
Philadelphia at Washington PPD
Baltimore at Texas
Toronto at Minnesota
L.A. Angels at Seattle
Houston at Pittsburgh
Cincinnati at Milwaukee
San Francisco at L.A. Dodgers

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Wakefield flirts with no-no in Sox win

Knuckleballer Tim Wakefield took a no-hitter into the eighth inning but finished with a four-hitter yesterday in Boston's slump-snapping 8-2 victory over the Oakland Athletics. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baseball sees spike in diversity

MLB The percentage of black players in the major leagues increased to 10.2 per cent last year, the first rise since 1995. The sport had reached an all-time low of 8.2 per cent in 2007, according to Richard Lapchick, director of the University of Central Florida's Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sports. "The decline of African-American players has been a big story and this may represent a halt in that," Lapchick said.

Isiah will coach for free for a year

NCAA Here's a sign of how far Isiah Thomas was willing to go for an opportunity to return to coaching: He won't make a dollar his first year at Florida International University. Thomas' introduction at FIU yesterday included the revelation that he will donate his salary back to the school for his first season. School officials did not release the figure, but said it's between $200,000 and $300,000 US. "I did not come here for the money," Thomas said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB A tribute to Jackie

ERIC HASHIMOTO/GETTY IMAGES

The New York Mets wear No. 42 in honour of Jackie Robinson Day prior to their game against the San Diego Padres last night. All Major League Baseball players wore Robinson's No. 42 yesterday as a tribute to him on the 62nd anniversary of breaking Major League Baseball's colour barrier.

Sports in brief

NLL Colin Doyle makes what fans hope will be a triumphant return to Toronto Saturday. The popular captain of the San Jose Stealth has a chance to make National Lacrosse League history when he appears in his first game in the city since the Rock traded him. Doyle has a league-best 106 points, which is only nine shy of the single-season record set by Buffalo's John Tavares in 2001.

CFL The Toronto Argonauts signed wide receiver Frank Murphy to a contract yesterday. Murphy sat out last season but caught 37 passes for 614 yards and three touchdowns in 2007.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ronaldo responds

World player of the year Cristiano Ronaldo answered his skeptics, including manager Alex Ferguson, with a career-best goal that sent defending champion Manchester United into the Champions League semifinals yesterday.

Ronaldo's spectacular long-range strike provided a 1-0 victory over FC Porto and a 3-2 aggregate score in the quarter-final series.

"It is the best I have scored," Ronaldo said. "It was a fantastic strike and I can't wait to see it again on DVD. I am very happy with it."

The Portugal forward began his run from inside the Porto half in the sixth minute and sent a rising shot from 40 yards past diving goalkeeper Helton into the top corner for only his second goal of the competition.

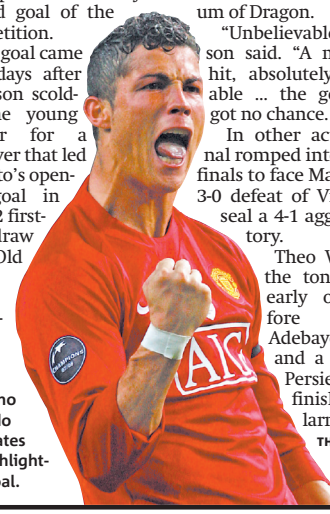
The goal came only days after Ferguson scolded the young winger for a turnover that led to Porto's opening goal in the 2-2 first-leg draw at Old Trafford. Yesterday, Ferguson was just as stunned as the 45,000 fans at the Stadium of Dragon.

"Unbelievable," Ferguson said. "A magnificent hit, absolutely unbelievable ... the goalkeeper's got no chance."

In other action, Arsenal romped into the semifinals to face Man U with a 3-0 defeat of Villarreal to seal a 4-1 aggregate victory.

Theo Walcott set the tone with an early opener before Emmanuel Adebayor's goal and a Robin van Persie penalty finished off Villarreal.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates his highlight-reel goal.

Bills' legal woes not reflection of team: GM

NFL Though disappointed that three Buffalo Bills have run into trouble, general manager Russ Brandon defended the team's reputation and doesn't consider the missteps a reflection of his players.

"Any time there's a negative light shone on this organization, it affects everybody at One Bills Drive," Brandon said yesterday, referring to the team's address.

"Any locker room is a microcosm of society. We've got 85 players on this team and 150 people within this organization, and to say that you're not going to have a problem crop up here and there, I think, is ignorant."

Defensive back Donte Whitner has been charged with aggravated disorderly conduct and resisting arrest after police used a stun gun on the player during an altercation outside a Cleveland club last weekend.

Running back Marshawn Lynch has been suspended without pay for three games by the NFL after pleading guilty to a misdemeanour after police found a gun in his car.

And defensive back Ko Simpson was arrested outside a bar New Year's Day, charged with hindering police after officers were trying to arrest his friends.

Brandon, who is also the team's chief operating officer, said it's a case of bad news getting more notice.

"The fact of the matter is when something goes awry, it's on Page 1," he said. "But we all know, our community service and all the different things that our guys do on that front, you're lucky to get a story on."

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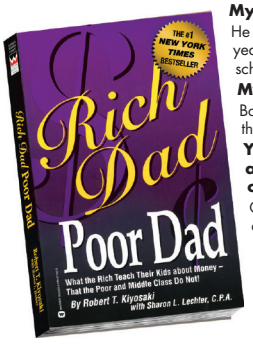

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Metro Homes

It's barbecue time!

Weber recently unveiled it's latest product line for barbecue enthusiasts. Whether its smokers, gas grills or charcoal grills, their latest line will appeal to grillers of all types. Check out some of their products in Metro Homes this week, including the Weber Spirit E-210, left. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

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Living on the edge...

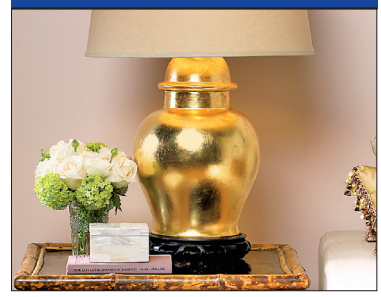
Pg 31

BRIAN COULTON/FOR METRO CANADA

Metro's Living in Durham feature comes to an end, a fitting one, in Clarington, nestled at the edge of the Greater Toronto Area.

Style At Home

Pg 22



Get the best out of your old fixtures by gold leafing them.

Go Green

Pg 23

A Toronto resident shows us how she gets by sans fridge.

Homescape

Pg 24

Learn why taking your time when you design will pay off.

Decor

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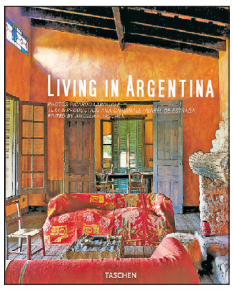


Home Library

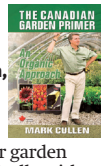
Argentinian living

BOOKS Living In Argentina by Angelika Taschen, $40, Taschen, hardcover, 200 pages. Longing for designs that are just a tad exotic? These European-influenced homes in Argentina might do the trick. An avant-garde bedroom, eclectic retro kitchen, tango-ready red living room, artist-style salon and more await adventurous readers on this tour through some of the best-designed homes in Buenos Aires and the surrounding countryside.

–JENN HOULIHAN

Home Library

Organic gardening



BOOKS The Canadian Garden Primer by Mark Cullen, $30, Mark's Choice, hardcover, 207 pages. Get your garden growing organically with help from Cullen, an author and TV host with 30 years of horticultural experience. Learn how to create a chemical-free garden that's safe for kids and pets and also attracts the right kind of insects and wildlife.

–JENN HOULIHAN

Midas Makeover

More makeover ideas

If you're attempting a new technique like gilding, start small with a project like this lamp or a picture frame. Try leafing in other finishes such as aluminum or copper. If leafing isn't your thing, spray paint is the quickest way to perk up a blah ceramic lamp. Try Krylon Fusion paint, which adheres well to ceramic. To give the lamp a more modern vibe, visit a glass supply place to get a custom acrylic base made instead of the Chinese-style one used here.

Styling ideas

This is the kind of lamp that can slide right into the gracious traditional setting seen here and no one will be the wiser to its humble provenance. The lamp's chinoiserie shape pairs well with a bamboo side table, while the clean lines of the tuxedo-arm sofa offer a dash of modernity. The warm blush wall colour — Farrow & Ball's Pink Ground — enhances the lamp's golden glow.

BRIAN REISER PHOTO (RIGHT)/MARGOT AUSTIN PHOTOS (BELOW)

A $10 lamp goes from drab to drop-dead gorgeous thanks to a few leaves of gold and some finishing touches. By Kevin Austin.

This time out, my goal was to find something as inexpensive as possible that was still worth the effort of a makeover — this $10 lamp I found at a local thrift store fit the bill perfectly.

What was done

Gilding is an old-world art practised by highly trained artisans, but don't let that intimidate you. I had never done it before and was amazed at how easy it is. Imitation gold leaf (the real deal is just too expensive) and all the required tools are readily available at art supply stores. Before beginning, I held the bordered booklet of gold leaf sheets and cut it into four smaller sections, thus making the sheets easier to handle and apply. Here are the basic steps I followed.

- Ensure the lamp surface is clean and lightly sanded.
- Use a foam brush to paint on an even coat of gilder's size, an adhesive that will make the sheets of gold leaf stick to the surface. Allow the size to cure for about an hour.
- Use a small, flat, soft bristle brush called a gilder's tip to pick up a piece of leaf from the booklet. Avoid handling the leaf with your fingers, as it may tarnish and tear.
- Apply the sheet of leaf to the lamp's surface and use the brush to gently smooth out any wrinkles, working from the centre out to the edges.
- Continue in that manner, overlapping the leaves as little as possible, until the surface is covered.
- When complete, gently rub or burnish the entire surface with a dry, soft bristle brush to ensure complete adhesion and to brush away excess leaves.
- Apply leaves to any bare spots resulting from burnishing or lack of sufficient sizing.
- To protect imitation gold leaf from tarnishing or oxidizing, apply a coat of protective sealer.
- The last, and optional step, is to rub antiquing glaze over the lamp with a foam brush to give the project that old-world look. Then apply a coat of satin sealer and allow to dry.

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The Prairie End	4107	A	2,119	4	~~$374,990~~	$354,990	$20,000
The Canyon	4105, 4106	A	2,094	4	~~$366,990~~	$349,990	$17,000

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Monarch

Classic charcoal
Seen here is the Weber One-Touch Gold charcoal grill. With a built in thermometer, heat-resistant handles and tuck-away lid holder, this caps the charcoal experience. See Weber.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Fixing up a deck disaster

DisasterDIY

Bryan Baeumler
HGTV host

Bryan Baeumler is host of Disaster DIY: Cottage Edition, airing tonight at 9 p.m. on HGTV. Visit hgtv.ca/disasterdiy for streamed episodes and exclusive content.

On tonight's episode, Adam invited me up to a wakeboard camp where he taught me few tricks on the board, and in exchange I'd like to think I rescued him from certain death by DIY disaster. If you enjoy the peaceful lapping of waves at the water's edge, the serenity of towering pines and chirping birds in cottage country… or flying through the air upside down on a wakeboard behind a high performance boat — Basecamp is for you. If you're more inclined to relax with your favourite book on a wet and mouldy couch while admiring the view from an old, rotten, precarious deck that's about to fall off the front of the cottage into the lake, they had that option too — until now.

Scott is the director of Basecamp, where groups of youngsters go to learn how to fly from the best. But he's also guilty of a common cottage crime: ignoring important unseen dangers, using the wrong material, and recycling rotten lumber that's outlived it usefulness. I set him, and his deck, straight on Disaster DIY tonight.

Bryan Baeumler is host of Disaster DIY: Cottage Edition. The show airs Thursdays at 9 p.m. on HGTV.

Getting by sans fridge

EARTH DAY: APRIL 22
Go Green

Andrea Peloso unplugged her fridge two years ago, turning it into a storage cupboard instead.

The 31-year-old Toronto college professor, yoga teacher and committed environmentalist has always done her best to take care of Mother Earth.

"I have never bought a car, I bike and use transit. I teach 22 yoga classes all over the city and can use public transit five times a day. I don't have a television. I live in a small apartment."

One day, she looked around her and thought, "What about the refrigerator?"

She's not the only one. Around the world, environmentalists are asking the question: Do I really need a honking big refrigerator eating up energy and increasing my carbon footprint?

Ditching the fridge has become the latest badge of honour for those who think green.

Just Google "living without a refrigerator" to see dozens of websites and blogs detailing people's adventures, including a sailor who lives on his boat and eats food from tins, and a "greenpa" who claims to live in a cabin in the forest and who has been without a fridge for 30 years.

One young woman posted a picture of herself in front of her open, unused fridge — she was afraid to call the landlord to repair it because she had an illegal cat in her apartment. She survived a year without a fridge by keeping her pop on the windowsill, only buying food for one day — and eating out a lot.

One blogger details his fruitless search for a cheese that can withstand the heat. Others fess up: They became vegetarians in order to overcome the difficulty of keeping meat and dairy items safe to eat.

As anyone who has undergone a kitchen renovation can attest, you can operate a household a long time with only a camping cooler and bags of ice.

Although Peloso has turned her fridge into cupboards for her pickled and canned goods, she does use ice (and sometimes snow) in the freezer part of her fridge, which is where she puts beer for her guests and where she also keeps foods that need to be kept cold.

RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"All I really use is my stove. Maybe that's my next step," says Andrea Peloso who has cut her electricity bill to less than $20 a month.

For Peloso, this is actually her second stab at living without a fridge. The first time was when she lived in Paris 10 years ago as a university student studying philosophy.

"We had one fridge for 300 people and no one wanted to put their food in it because other people would eat it. In Paris, the markets were everywhere; we'd buy meat and cheese every day. We'd put things in the window to stay cool." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Durham takes LEED with Whitby Shorelands

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

ENVIRONMENT Liza Communities is going green, and they mean it.

The Durham Region developer has chosen Earth Day, this Wednesday, to introduce its innovative new Whitby community, Shorelands. It's the first entire townhouse community in Canada to participate in the Canada Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for Homes.

The LEED Canada for Homes initiative aims to foster residential developments that use fewer natural resources and reduce waste production.

"Reducing your footprint on your own in terms of recycling, consuming less and trying to be organic is obviously a huge step forward," said Nargues Mansouri, director of maketing and sales for Liza Communities. "We are trying to raise the awareness of LEED and how it can impact your home — not just your everyday living and lifestyle."

To qualify under the LEED plan, homes must meet specific guidelines. A rigorous checklist with an attached point system determines whether a development meets the criteria.

The assessment awards points in the categories sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, and innovation & design process.

The ins and outs of Title Insurance

LegalMatters

Jeffrey D. Cowan
jeff@cowanandtaylor.com

Q My lawyer has advised me that I should obtain title insurance on the property for my new home at a cost of a couple of hundred dollars. What is this all about?

A Title Insurance is a product offered by several companies in Canada that are relatively new to the market. Under the old system in Ontario, your lawyer would have to write letters to various authorities to verify that taxes, water, zoning, works orders and others possible deficiencies to the property did not exist. This cost our clients several hundred dollars and made the purchase process much more complex. It also involved reliance upon a survey to the property, which often was out of date and did not represent the present day boundaries. It made the purchase of a property in a firmly established downtown neighbourhood an exercise of considerable complexity and concern. Along comes title insurance where you purchase a policy on a one-time basis when you buy the property and they guarantee for the time that you own the house that basic title-based deficiencies will be covered. An added feature is that if someone fraudulently comes along and places a mortgage on the property, the title insurance company will advocate on your behalf.

Jeffrey D. Cowan is with Cowan & Taylor, Barristers & Solicitors. The info in this article should not be relied upon as legal advice.

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Monarch

Grilling gold
Weber Genesis CEP-310 brickred gas grill. This line of gas grills features three stainless-steel burners, 637 square inches of cooking space and a 12,000 BTU flush-mounted side burner. See Weber.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Take the time to get it right

HomeScape

Sylvia Putz
metronews.ca/homescape

Do you wonder at the people who moved into their new house and are still decorating a year and a half later?

Well, that's me. And I'm here to tell you that there's nothing wrong with it, either.

You may titter and giggle at my expense, but my view is that it is better to make choices slowly and carefully, so you don't end up with something that you decide later is really not the right thing.

And believe me, I didn't start out this way.

You need to know that I am an impatient decorator. I made lists, and come hell or high water, I worked to put check marks on the page beside my tasks. I even gave myself tight time limits, and then I bought what I thought was the best choice within my time limitations.

Logical? Efficient? Maybe, but in home decor, the results end up "OK" rather than "splendid" or "stunning." And you don't want "acceptable" after you spend considerable bucks on improving and sprucing up a place. Why not go for some pretty amazing results? They are within your grasp.

The issue boils down to time. If you want your place finished, furnishings and accessories in place overnight, you can do it. But you run a high risk that the pieces will not work for you. Either you'll discover too late that the piece is badly designed or poorly constructed, or the look, on second thought, is not to your liking.

Making good decor decisions takes time. As with many things in life, you make bad decisions if you rush. My parents will forever regret the day that my dad snapped up a bathtub at what he thought was a very good price that wouldn't last. It was a great price but there was a reason for this — it was badly designed. It was built so low that it does not allow a comfortable "lean-back" position, but they didn't discover this until the tub was in place.

Good design takes time.

Don't let this happen to you. Take your time and look around. Do your homework. Decide first on the look you are seeking (if you don't know, check out magazines to decide what look you prefer), and then check out possibilities and prices. Your choice will emerge eventually, believe me. By all means, do your homework efficiently (I'm sure you'll be faster than I am), but do it.

Sometimes, after you've done some checking around, you'll see something and be blessed with that feeling that you've found exactly what you are looking for. Hallelujah! Check around for pricing, to ensure you find the best cost. Then buy it.

But sometimes, it isn't quite so clear cut. You'll see a piece that works on some level, whether it be colour or size, but you know in your heart that the piece satisfies only in a "good enough" way. If this is the case, make a decision to look around some more.

Here are some tips to help you make good decisions about buying furnishings:

- Commit to taking the time to make good decor decisions, including the need for research such as checking around for pricing and choices.
- Be careful with trends, fads, anything in extreme pattern designs, or anything that is likely to become "dated" quickly.
- Avoid impulse purchases.
- Go with your heart. Don't let anybody talk you into buying something you're not certain that you like.
- Generally speaking, try to buy quality products over time, rather than buying lots of inexpensive furnishings all at once. Make sure sofas, chairs and upholstered furniture are well constructed and solid. Inspect seams, and check fabric for cleaning instructions.
- When you shop for furnishings, start with the basics, or the big pieces like sofas, upholstered chairs, beds and side tables and a dining room table and chairs. Save accessories for later.
- If you are decorating an entire house, do one room at a time to avoid getting overwhelmed.
- Once you are armed with research about possibilities and prices, effective people tend to make decisions quickly and then stick to the decision rather than vacillating.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in decor and design. She's written for the TV show Arresting Design; sputz@arrestingdesign.com.

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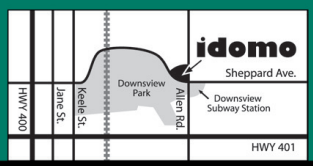

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Nautilus, come on in the water's fine

Looking for an affordable new home that's close to the lake, close to amenities and close to your idea of paradise? You'll find all that and more at Nautilus — Monarch Corporation's fourth condominium in the popular Waterview urban resort community on Etobicoke's Humber Bay Shores. Now well on its way to completion, Nautilus is part of Monarch's Construction Celebration Sale. For a limited time, get a $10,000 move in bonus on any suite in this spectacular building at the water's edge — enjoy resort-style living and save thousands!

From this neighbourhood, residents can walk to the Martin Goodman Trail, marinas and some of the city's finest entertainment and cultural amenities. And like its sister buildings, Nautilus will offer panoramic views of the city and Lake Ontario. Designed by Graziani & Corazza Architects Inc., its head-turning exterior incorporates six-foot-deep balconies like a work of art. These outdoor spaces feature blue and green glass sections and are arranged in a sweeping pattern to suggest a nautical sail.

Just as striking, the interior amenity spaces are decorated by award-winning Tanner Hill Associates. These include the Nautilus CLUB with its special occasion/party room opening onto a landscaped garden, theatre room, sports lounge, private dining room, indoor swimming pool, sauna, fitness facility, cyber lounge, and library room. Suite owners will enjoy 24/7 concierge service, and can utilize two designer-decorated guest suites.

Outstanding standard features include nine-foot ceiling heights in principal rooms, strip laminate flooring, the choice of porcelain or ceramic tile flooring in the bathrooms, contemporary kitchens with granite countertops and brand-name stainless steel appliances, and a variety of energy-saving features. Be sure to tour the 542 sq. ft. Oceana model suite appointed by award-winning Esqape Design.

Seen here are an interior and exterior (illustration) view of the Nautilus — Monarch Corporation's fourth condominium in the Waterview urban resort community on Etobicoke's Humber Bay Shores.

Available suites range from 562 to 1,040 sq. ft. and start from the low $200,000's — and for a limited time, receive a $10,000 move-in bonus.

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For details, visit Monarch's Presentation Gallery at 68 Marine Parade Dr. in Etobicoke. Hours are Monday to Thursday from noon to 6 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.; closed Friday. For more information, call 416-495-3544 or visit monarchgroup.net.

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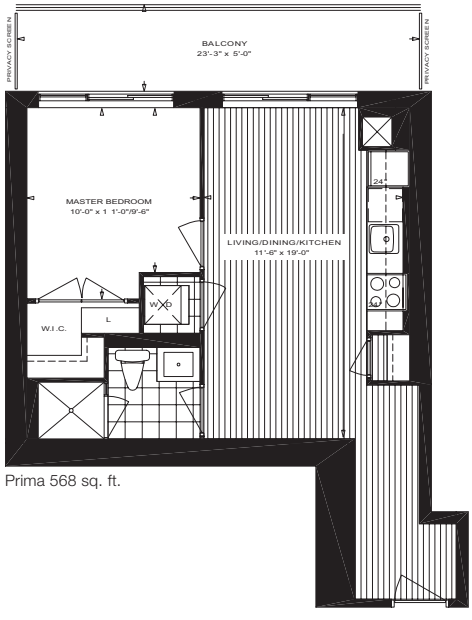

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Affordable home ownership a reality this May

In May, The Daniels Corporation will once again offer first-time buyers the dream of easy and affordable homeownership as they get ready to go on sale with FirstHome Eglinton West — a limited collection of fully-built condominium townhomes located in the heart of Erin Mills. This exciting new community will be the fifth FirstHome community to be built by Daniels and much like those that came before it; Eglinton West has received an incredible response and is expected to sell quickly!

FirstHome Eglinton West is already well under construction at the northeast corner of Eglinton Avenue and Oscar Peterson Boulevard, close to parks, schools, shops, Erin Mills Town Centre, walking paths and highways 403, 401 and 407. The community will offer a collection of one- and two-storey condominium townhomes in one-, two- and three-bedroom layouts — including a selection of brand new home designs — ranging in size from 529 to 1,364 square feet and priced from only $165,900.

> "Our Daniels FirstHome communities offer tremendous affordability for quality-built townhomes in amenity-rich locations. "To find townhomes in Erin Mills priced within the reach of first-time buyers is an incredible opportunity."
>
> Daniels Vice-President Don Pugh

"Our Daniels FirstHome communities offer tremendous affordability for quality-built townhomes in amenity-rich locations," says Daniels Vice-President Don Pugh. "To find townhomes in Erin Mills priced within the reach of first-time buyers is an incredible opportunity. We've had thousands of people register for FirstHome Eglinton West, so we know there is a pent-up demand in the area."

Daniels is once again making homeownership easy and more affordable with their exclusive LIVE FREE program, which waives the interim occupancy fee until the condominium is registered. This means that purchasers can move into their new home at Eglinton West within 30, 60 or 90 days and only pay the deposit payments each month until they reach 5-per-cent down. Plus, Daniels is going to make paying that 5 per cent easy by offering their Gradual Deposit Payment Plan. Purchasers only need to pay $2,500 upon the signing of the Agreement of Purchase and Sale, another $2,500 ten days later, and then $1,000 each month until they have reached 5 per cent of the purchase price.

In addition to these remarkable affordability programs, purchasers at FirstHome Eglinton West will have the tremendous advantage of being able to walk through a model of each of the eight different home designs including a selection of furnished models, before buying — giving them the opportunity to see and touch Daniels' quality construction and determine which home design best suits their lifestyle needs.

"Anyone wanting to enter the new home market in this great Erin Mills location should register now to be sure they're on the preview list," Pugh says. "Where else can you find quality townhomes for prices like these, with quick move-ins and financial programs designed to help you with your down payment? This is the opportunity of a lifetime."

And this is the perfect time for Daniels to be introducing FirstHome Eglinton West. Mortgage rates are at historic lows, and the recent Federal Budget announced that first-time home buyers can now withdraw up to $25,000 from their personal RRSP towards a down payment, plus there is a first-time buyer's tax credit of up to $750 in tax relief towards closing costs. In addition, Daniels and RBC Royal Bank have been working hard to cap mortgage rates at an incredibly low level. At Eglinton West, purchasers will be eligible to receive Daniels' Exclusive Builder's Rate for up to 120 days after they purchase — just another advantage to buying at FirstHome Eglinton West!

Over the past two decades, The Daniels Corporation has emerged as one of Canada's preeminent builder-developers, with a reputation for quality and integrity in all forms of residential construction. The company has built more than 18,000 homes and apartments in a diverse range of award-winning communities. Daniels FirstHome Communities are an integral part of the company's commitment to help make the dream of homeownership come true for people who might not otherwise be able to enter the new home market.

Sales will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Register today to attend Daniels' preview event this May by calling 905-814-0123 or visit danielsfirsthome.ca.

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New Homes

Renting versus buying

TheHunt
Amit Paul
amitp@rogers.com

In recent memory the debate between buying and renting had been seriously one-sided. The simple truth was that, unless you were planning on leaving the province with no option or desire to rent your property, buying was almost certainly the way to go. Of course the most important factor that made this reasoning logical was the fact that the difference between your rental payment and your mortgage payment on a given property was so close that it just made good sense to try and build your own equity rather than help someone else pay off their mortgage.

Today it seems many potential purchasers have forgotten the benefits of buying over renting, as part of the mass hysteria that has, to an extent, gripped our economy.

Please don't misunderstand. Our economy is certainly in a recession. However, it's one thing to understand that falling into a lion's den can have grave consequences, but it's quite another to be afraid of the boogeyman! The second most common fear associated with purchasing a home today is job security. The first of course is the state of our market but I've already written several articles recently on that topic, so let's examine this second most significant obstacle towards achieving your goal of owning your own home, this time around.

The prospect of losing your primary, and in many cases only, source of income is a significant and real concern for most of us and especially in today's economy. However, does that concern validate the number of people looking at renting versus buying? The answer may surprise you, especially when you re-examine the true state of our real estate market.

Suppose our friend Bob falls victim to downsizing and now poor Bob has lost his primary flow of income. Would poor Bob be in a better position if he was renting, or if he was making mortgage payments? If Bob was truly living hand-to-mouth I would suggest that renting was his better option, simply because he can pick up and run without having to worry about another dime, outside his security deposit. Assuming of course the lease was in his favour. However if Bob, like most Torontonians, had the benefit of a modest savings account that could be dipped in to if absolutely necessary, poor Bob wouldn't be nearly as poor, if he owned.

> **"It just made good sense to try and build your own equity rather than help someone else pay off their mortgage."**

If Bob owned a home, he could maintain the home, along with the equity and rent savings, for as long as possible. If he was going to seek a loan, or temporary help from parents, he'd be feeding that money back into himself, at least, rather than ensuring that his landlord was continuing to make his money. At the end of the day if Bob needed to sell, so long as Bob purchases wisely, his home will be aided by the wide-spread stabilization of prices in many parts of the GTA, which means Bob would not end up nearly as poor as you might think.

Now, having said all of that, if Bob is in a situation where the prospect of losing his job means that he will likely have to forfeit the home and declare bankruptcy then no, buying is not the better option. In that situation Bob would be better off living hand-to-mouth in a rental that he could wipe his hands clean at the drop of a pink slip. But if Bob feels that losing the house is not the main reason for concern, and that it is more of a monthly cash flow dilemma, Bob would do well to remember that the gap between mortgage and rent payments, given today's admirably low interest rates and buyer's market, has not been more favourable to purchasers in almost half a decade.

If you have any questions about anything discussed in this article feel free to contact Amit at amitp@roges.com.

Amit is a Realtor/Developer with Re/Max. amitp@rogers.com

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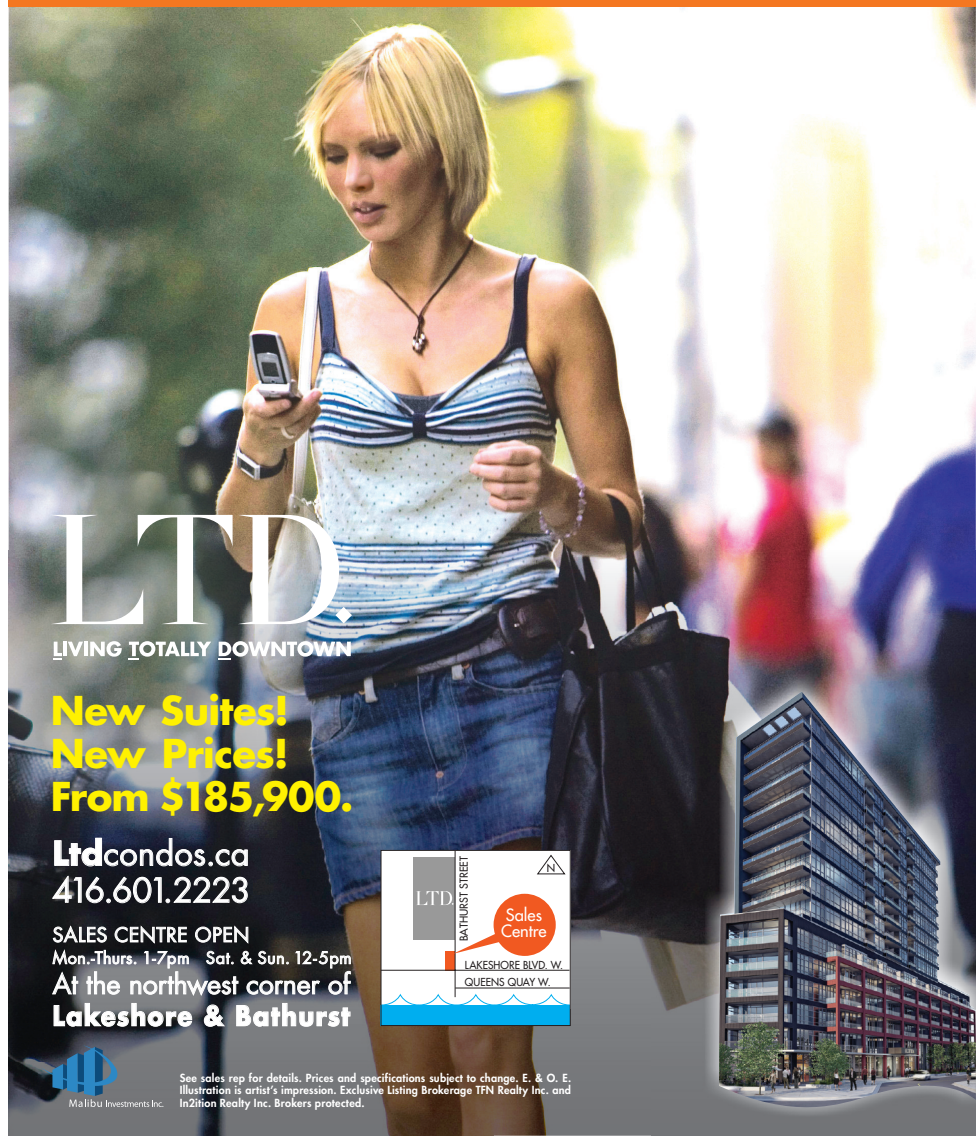

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Urban farmers cropping up

EARTH DAY: APRIL 22
Go Green

EMMA E FORREST
Metro World News

As food prices rocket and household budgets are cut, people are looking to grow their own, not just in the countryside, but in town too.

Urban farmers are sprouting as readily as weeds in our cities, making use of every patch of green space.

According to the British Royal Horticultural Society, sales of fruit and vegetables seeds in the U.K. have jumped by 28 per cent in the last year, and Guy Barter, Head of the RHS Horticultural Advisory Service says that the majority of inquiries have been from those with less than 10 m squared to cultivate.

"People hope to save money, but they also hope to get fresher, tastier produce, show their children where food comes from, and be more involved with the food they eat," explains Barter.

At the U.S. seed company, Burpee, sales of vegetable seeds have increased by 30 per cent in the last year, with gardeners favouring green beans, tomatoes, lettuce, peppers, carrots, cucumbers and squash.

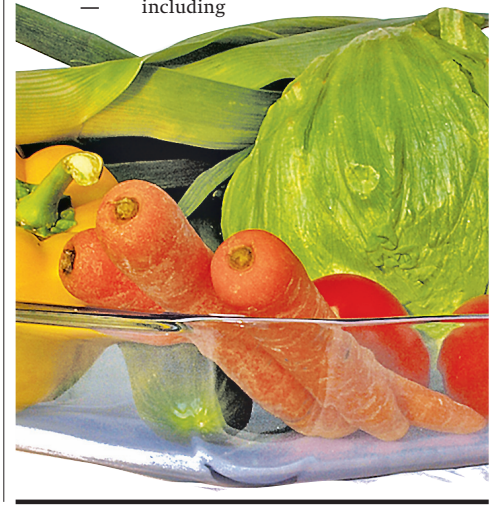
Growing your own is economical: Burpee estimates that a $3 bag of tomato seeds will produce an average of up to $1,000-worth of store-bought tomatoes.

Cultivating your own fruit and vegetables is also good for the environment as it's organic (unless you choose to use pesticides), it reduces food transport miles and the more varieties of plants in town, the better it is for essential local wildlife — including bees.

Eating tasty food that is freshly picked and eaten seasonally is also good for your health. The trend for growing vegetables dovetails nicely with the ethos of the global Slow Food movement, which encourages us to think about where our food comes from, and appreciate local, seasonal rather than industrially farmed produce.

Top 5 plants for small spaces

- Tomatoes: Very pleasant to grow. Plants are affordable and easier than growing from seed, and if the weather's right they will produce a satisfying crop.
- Herbs: Very little goes a long way to changing the flavour of your food. Rosemary and thyme are easy to grow and look good too.
- Salad: Chinese leaves, lettuce and so on require little skill, they're a good way of getting started.
- French beans: Grown them up a wigwam or in a container. They're easy to grow and quick to crop, and they're attractive.
- Beetroot: Easy to grow and copes well in a container. Pick the leaves and use in salads, then use the roots, they're a revelation if you've only tasted the shop bought version.



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It's all in the name
Clarington gained its present name in 1994 after having been known as the Town of Newcastle. The name change was intended to alleviate confusion between the municipality as a whole and the included village of the same name (Newcastle).

From the outside looking in

Clarington offers cosy towns and expansive green space at the edge of Durham

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

Being an outsider has its benefits.

Just ask residents of Clarington, Ont. The easternmost municipality in Durham Region may sit on the area's periphery, but being about an hour drive from Toronto and surrounding suburbs has its perks.

"Being out of the rat race, I think people move a little bit further in this direction to get out of the craziness of the city," said Karen Evans, resident of Clarington for 22 years.

"But we're not that far. If you want to go into Toronto, you just hop on the train."

Evans lives in Bowmanville, one of four urban communities in Clarington, added to Newcastle, Courtice and Orono. But many of the municipality's near 80,000 residents also inhabit the more than 20 rural communities also in Clarington's bounds.

And while Clarington isn't the haven of hustle that Toronto is, Evans says her stomping ground is growing in population and business, citing the recent development of a Home Depot; an important addition she said is necessary for Clarington.

"If you have a few of those bigger stores that keep people here, they don't have to go to Oshawa or further away to get those kind of things that they need."

"Few" is the key word. Ascending Bowmanville's downtown mound, one finds few franchise stores and restaurants, but rather a profusion of independent retailers that contribute to the small town feel. Antique shops inhabit several of the core's red brick buildings, some of which contain artistic mural renderings of Clarington history.

The area's past is also well documented in the municipality's museums. Downtown Bowmanville sports the Bowmanville Museum, a Victorian-furnished, Italianate styled nine-room house that local café employee Samantha said is rumoured to be haunted. The nearby Sarah Jane Williams Heritage Centre holds historical artifacts and a research area, while the Clarke Museum in Kirby, Ont., largely features ancestral agricultural tools.

Samantha, 22, works at Espresso Legato, on the main strip. She said Clarington's not so geared toward people her age, but that hasn't stopped the young lady from finding her place in the community.

"Now that I work here and have worked here so long, I know everybody that works downtown — business owners, artists, musicians — everybody," she said. And after hours, she knows where her and her co-workers can go to feel included. "The Espresso girls? We go to The Village Inn," she said, referring to a nearby Irish pub. "It's kind of like Cheers — where everyone knows your name."

Samantha also hails the number of trails and forested areas in Clarington. But the rural focus is more prevalent outside Bowmanville, in the heavily wooded residential retreat near the lake in Newcastle, just a 10-minute drive east.

Dense, presently leafless trees for miles and grand, sparsely spaced houses mark the community. Bordering Lake Ontario, the Port of Newcastle is a relaxing destination to watch the waves crash on the shore, or enjoy conversation on a parkette bench.

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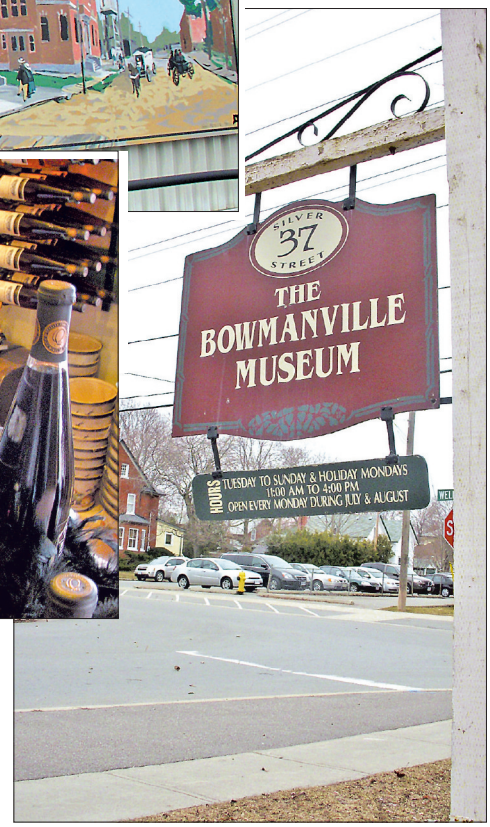

Top left: A mural depicting Clarington history in Bowmanville. Above: The sign for the Bowmanville Museum. Above left: A wine set from Archibald's Estate Winery. Below left: One of the many antique shops in Clarington. Below right: Espresso Legato, where to go to get your cup of joe.

Best baked goods

- Espresso Legato (50 King St. E., Bowmanville). This endearing café features chalkboard menus, contemporary decor and personal touches, like warming up your portable coffee mug, pre-pour. The coffee's cheap — $1.67 for a medium — but the homemade baking reigns supreme. Try the trail mix-y, chocolate-touched "rocky road" cookie for just $1.75.

Hailing from here

Joseph E. Atkinson, who hails from Newcastle, was a Canadian newspaper editor and activist. He ran the Toronto Star until his death in 1948. Under his leadership the Toronto Star became one of the largest and most influential newspapers in Canada.

'Untouched ... authentic'

<<CONT. FROM LAST PAGE

The scenery is bolstered by the 95-year-old Newcastle Horticultural Society, which aims to protect the natural environment through advocacy programs and its civic beautification committee. The group holds regular meetings and flower shows, with an emphasis on growing gardens.

Fifteen different kinds of apples grow on the estate owned by Sandy and Fred Archibald. Their sprawling Archibald's Estate Winery is located in north Bowmanville, just outside rural community, Tyrone. Archibald's has an orchard where visitors can pick their own apples, a nine-hole golf course and the winery, featuring fruit and ice wines and seasonal preserves and sweets.

While it's off the beaten path, Sandy Archibald said distance from downtown buzz makes life a little more interesting.

"Sometimes you just need to make your own fun and get back to nature. That's what we provide here," she said. "You can actually see apples don't grow in plastic bags. They grow on trees."

Archibald emphasizes community — among residents and business — as what divides Clarington, however spread out, from other close by locales.

"The openness and friendliness of the community is one of the amazing things about Clarington," she said. "If you want to buy local and support the farmers, there's a huge community here. The business community likes to work together, in cooperation rather than competition with each other."

And to Archibald, like westward communities are no competition to Clarington. "Because it's east, Clarington is unknown and sort of one of those best kept secrets ... untouched and authentic."

Best fest

- Fruit, Wine & Food Festival (Saturday, May 30). In support of Big Brothers & Sisters of Clarington, this festival gathers a selection of Ontario wineries and chefs to the Archibald Estate Winery in Bowmanville to showcase the best in local food and beverage. Tickets are $10 in advance, or $12 at the door.

Seen here are views of the dense, tree-rimmed road to Lake Ontario, and a view of the lake itself — with some Canadian fauna.

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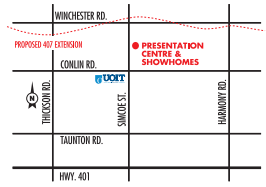

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Eddie Bauer is coming to Toronto

Eddie Bauer is coming to Toronto April 22 as part of the Shops at Don Mills, Ontario's first outdoor lifestyle center. To celebrate, the store will offer special promotions and giveaways. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Style

Tote your Earth Day message

Wear your environmental message on your shoulder with one of Old Navy's new cool and colourful reusable totes. Choose from a variety of fun slogans like "I love boys who recycle," "Hug a tree," and "Conserve your earth." The totes are $14.50 each. Also in support of Earth Day (April 22), the popular clothing retailer will offer "green" boxers, organic cotton baby suits and trendy tees, all under $20. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Eco-accessorizing

Head to toe details that won't harm the planet

JANINE FALCON
for Metro Canada

EARTH DAY: APRIL 22
Go Green

Get a little greener with jewelry, bags, shoes and more made with found, vintage, recycled, renewable, natural and organic materials.

• Traditional Ethylene Vinyl Acetate (EVA) running-shoe midsoles can take up to 1,000 years to break down. The Brooks BioMoGo midsole will biodegrade within 20 years of entering a landfill. In 20 years, it'll equal a landfill reduction of 29.9 million pounds of waste, or 1,277 football fields blanketed in a one-shoe-deep carpet of runners. Shop: Brooks Women's Glycerin runner with BioMoGo, $159.99, brooksrunning.ca.

• Naturally breathable and hypoallergenic, bamboo-fibre fabric is also a sustainable resource which grows sans chemical pesticides or fertilizers and is 100 per cent biodegradable. Shop: Mark's Work Wearhouse bamboo socks, $9.99/2-pack.

• Toronto-based jewelry designer Dandi Maestre has a passion for organic shapes and natural materials such as shed antlers, driftwood, shells and bone, all found in shores, rivers, jungles and forests around the world. Shop: Dandi Maestre coconut cuffs, $230 each, stackable bone and horn rings, $75 each, dandimaestre.com and select Holt Renfrew stores.

• A purse hook keeps your beloved bag off the dirty floor. The hook part swivels to slide flat into a purse pocket until you need it. Shop: Purse hook, $24, eco-handbags.ca. This one's made with recycled metal and rubber.

• Artisans with Nugaard Designs make jewelry and decorative ornaments using traditional weaving techniques and organic Golden Grass, which grows in the northwest of Brazil and is a main source of income for local area communities. Shop: Nugaard Designs sculpted grass earrings with 14-karat gold earwire, $164.30, anthropologie.com.

• Toronto-based designer Chrys Ioannou uses vintage elements from German, Japan, Czech Republic, France and the U.S. for many of her jewelry pieces. Shop: Red vintage glass earrings, $12, chrysdesignsjewelry.etsy.com.

• Organic leather, vintage ticking fabric and a kiss-lock clasp make the made-in-Canada Jack & Marjorie Clementine clutch, $110, a winning piece. Available at jackandmarjorie.com.

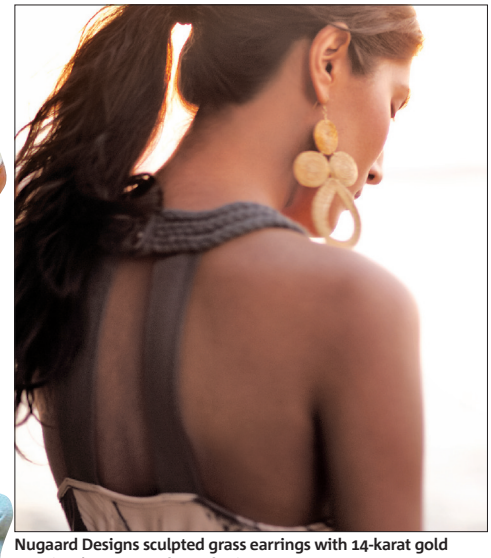
• Calgary's Rexcana Studios uses old truck tarps in many of their designs. Their Los Angeles Tote, $110, also has a recycled-tire bottom and is lined with cotton. Available at eco-handbags.ca.

• For their Earthkeepers line, Timberland selects recycled materials, organic cotton and leathers from a tannery with reduced energy use, reduced waste and quality water treatment. Shop: Timberland Earthkeepers Benin Ballerina deck shoes, $100, at Sporting Life, and Armadillo Shoes in BCE Place.

• Roots introduces Source, their first eco-scents made with natural corn-based alcohol, natural extracts and natural oils, and without animal ingredients, silicones, sulphates, phthalates or parabens. Boxes are constructed using renewable energy, 50 per cent post-consumer waste and carbon-neutral printing. Fragrances include Red Tea and Bamboo for women, 50 mL, $49, roots.com.

Roots Source Bamboo, 50 mL, $49, roots.com.

Jack & Marjorie Clementine clutch, $110, jackandmarjorie.com.



Nugaard Designs sculpted grass earrings with 14-karat gold earwire, $164.30, anthropologie.com.

Purse hook, $24, eco-handbags.ca.

Bamboo socks, $9.99/2-pack, Mark's Work Wearhouse.

Timberland Earthkeepers Benin Ballerina deck shoe, $100, at Sporting Life.

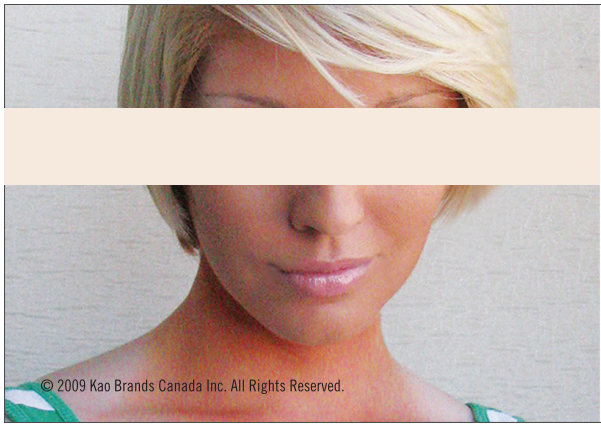
Red vintage glass earrings, $12, chrysdesignsjewelry.etsy.com.

Bone and horn rings, $75 each, at Holt Renfrew.

FlareFashion

Lisa Tant

Read the blog at metronews.ca/flarefashion



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Fashion classic returns with a flashy, punkish twist

This season, ladylike pearls get punk'd.

As this fashion classic makes a return engagement, those creamy-coloured beads are the sized of gum balls, strung on thick silk ribbons or intertwined with cascades of punkish chains. This is not your grandmother's necklace.

"Pearls used to be a love token. Your husband gave you pearls or your grandmother bequeathed you her pearls," says vintage costume jewellery connoisseur Carole Tanenbaum. "But the love token has been pushed aside and the rock star of pearls has emerged."

And, like the star they have become, they are gloriously, fabulously fake and begging to be noticed.

If you had to zero in on the moment when faux pearls were poised for a comeback, it would have to be last summer's blockbuster chick flick Sex and the City. Retailers and designers sat in cineplexes to see what their four favourite fashionistas were wearing. And there it was, looking suddenly new and fresh on Carrie, who was wearing a long strand of pearls in an insouciant way — to bed.

Sure enough, by the time September and October rolled around and designers were showing their spring/summer 2009 collections, tricked-out faux-pearl necklaces were seen on several runways, from Luella Bartley in London to Moschino in Milan to Alber Elbaz at Lanvin in Paris.

Necklace with pendant, $30, Aldo Accessories.

Expression necklace, $20, The Bay.

But props must be given to Elbaz for diligently giving pearls a makeover. For the past several seasons, ever since he wrapped his pearls in tulle and strung them on a necklace, the designer has been working the pearl necklace in increasingly innovative yet delectably ultra-feminine ways. This season, his pearls are strung on his trademark thick silk ribbons.

Fashion's newest "It" girl seemed to have picked up a penchant for pearls, too.

Michelle Obama's necklaces have been anything but the traditional dowager kind favoured by past first ladies.

Her pearls have included a simple strand of ping-pong-sized balls and a heavily, multi-strand necklace by jewellery designer Tom Binns.

Everyone has fallen in love with pearls again, it seems.

"I can't tell you how many we've sold for spring. It has been crazy," says jewellery designer Rita Dobberstein, whose line, Rita D., is also sold in the U.S. and Europe.

Inspired by the '40s, Dobberstein mixed giant pearls with cascades of chains for a look that she calls "punk meets Mad Max with a bit of rock 'n' roll."

It was time to do it differently, said the Toronto designer. The look she created "caters to a different kind of customer, someone edgy perhaps, who never thought they would wear pearls," she adds.

Dobberstein says that while she has dabbled with pearls in her career of more than 20 years, she has never sold as many as she has this year, and she'll continue using them in her fall collection.

But why do fashionistas seem to be going off the deep end for pearls right now? After all, the world is hardly their oyster at the moment.

"In low economic times like these, women need something to cheer themselves," says Tanenbaum. And these bigger styles make them happy," says Tanenbaum. "And pearls always make a statement."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TFI showcases hot new talent

EVENT The Toronto Fashion Incubator has grown some of the city's most exciting talent, from Joeffer Caoc to David Dixon to Crystal Siemens. Now, you can check out the next generation of fashion superstars. On Saturday, April 25, join the excitement at the fabulous fashion gala featuring the finalists of the much-anticipated TFI New Labels Fashion Design Competition.

Join event emcee Anne Marie Mediwake, co-anchor of the News Hour on Global, to find out who will win this year's competition and walk away with a prize package valued at over $25,000.

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Toronto Fashion Incubator emcee Anne Marie Mediwake.

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Food

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EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

Canadiana in a pastry cup

On Earth day, think local produce, the slow food movement and our national treat

À la carte

Barb Holland

metronews.ca/alacarte

As we celebrate Earth Day next week, our thoughts turn to the upcoming growing season as many are itching to get out and prepare our gardens for planting. There is a "growing" interest in planting, harvesting and enjoying our own vegetables.

Beyond our own gardens, farmer's markets will be soon be opening, generally on Victoria Day weekend across the country, just as the first of the early greens, rhubarb and asparagus make an appearance.

So too is there an interest in the slow food movement. Slow Food is a non-profit, eco-gastronomic member-supported organization that was founded in 1986 to counteract fast food and the disconnect many people have between farm and fork. It encourages shopping local, supporting the community, reducing carbon footprint and making connections from farm to table.

Always making those connections is culinary activist Anita Stewart. Her latest book, Anita Stewart's Canada (Harper-Collins Canada) celebrates Canada from coast to coast through food, recipes and stories. And one of the most celebrated foods in Canada has to be butter tarts.

According to Stewart, "Since the turn of the last century, recipes abound for it in almost every Canadian cookbook, but you won't find a reference for this noble tart in the Oxford Companion to Food or in the American reference book Food Lover's Companion. Friend and historian Mary Williamson is an expert on butter tarts. She notes the earliest reference was in a cookbook compiled by The Women's Auxiliary of the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie in 1900 and it's merely named 'A filling for tarts.' For farm women, two essential ingredients, eggs and butter, were in abundance. And Canada, when these tarts were invented, was a farming country."

Butter tart recipes are an oftened debated recipe. What type of sugar? Corn syrup? A splash of vinegar or lemon? Nuts, raisins or neither? There are likely as many butter tart recipes as cooks.

Peggy Morris's Amazing Butter Tarts

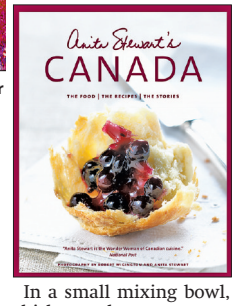
From Anita Stewart's Canada. Peggy Morris and her husband Edmund farmed northwest of Elora in Peel Township, Ont. Anita enjoyed Peggy's butter tarts many times over the years and asked for her recipe. Makes 18 tarts.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup (250 mL) raisins
- 2 eggs
- 1/3 cup (75 mL) corn syrup
- 1 cup (250 mL) packed brown sugar
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) melted butter
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) chopped walnuts
- 18 Sweet Tart Pastry shells

METHOD:

In a small bowl, cover raisins with boiling water. Let soak for 20 minutes. Drain and set aside.



In a small mixing bowl, whisk together eggs, corn syrup, brown sugar, butter and nuts. Stir in raisins. Pour evenly into prepared tart shells. Bake in preheated 450°F (220°C) oven 5 minutes. Reduce heat to 350°F (180°C) and open door slightly for 15 to 20 seconds to bring temperature down rapidly. Bake for 15 minutes or until bubbling and deep golden brown. Let cool for 10 to 15 minutes before removing from the pan.

EARTH DAY: APRIL 22

Go Green

Sweet Tart Pastry

INGREDIENTS:

- 2½ cups (625 ml) sifted cake-and-pastry flour
- ¼ cup (60 ml) granulated sugar
- ½ tsp (2 ml) salt
- 1 cup (250 ml) chilled unsalted butter
- ¾ cup (175 ml) ice water

METHOD:

In a bowl, sift together flour, sugar and salt. With a pastry blender, cut in butter until mixture resembles fine crumbs. With a fork, stir in ice water, ¼ cup (60 mL) at a time, until the dough can be gathered up into a ball. Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface. Flour a rolling pin and the top of the dough. Divide dough in half.

Roll out one piece of dough, dusting with flour as needed, to about ⅛ inch (3 mm) thick. Using a cookie cutter, cut into approximately 4-inch (10 cm) circles and press gently into muffin or large tart pans. Repeat with remaining dough.

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

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Join the local, sustainable feast

The Brewers Plate is a local, sustainable spring feast celebrating Toronto 's brewers, chefs, food artisans & farmers. The collaborative effort between Green Enterprise Toronto (GET), Slow Food Toronto and Local Food Plus (LFP) will be held at Hart House on Friday, 6:30 p.m. brewersplatetoronto.org. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Wild blueberry Charlotte.

A wild Charlotte

This classic dessert begins with a mould lined with ladyfingers. With this recipe, you don't have to wait for the fresh blueberry season. It uses frozen wild blueberries, which can be found in supermarkets.

This recipe is courtesy of the Wild Blueberry Association of North America, wildblueberries.com.

Wild Blueberry Charlotte

INGREDIENTS:

- 75 ml (1/3 cup) granulated sugar
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) water
- 625 ml (2 1/2 cups) frozen wild blueberries
- 1 envelope (7 g) unflavoured gelatin
- 250 ml (1 cup) creme fraiche or sour cream
- 150 ml (2/3 cup) whipping cream
- 12 thin ladyfinger cookies
- Fresh mint leaves

METHOD:

In a small saucepan, bring sugar and water to a boil. Boil for 5 minutes and pour over wild blueberries. Place half of the blueberry mixture into blender and puree until smooth. Set aside other half.

Sprinkle gelatin over 50 ml (1/4 cup) of water in a small saucepan. Heat over medium heat until dissolved and add to wild blueberry puree. Set aside and let cool, stirring occasionally, for about 15 minutes or until it starts to thicken. Stir in creme fraiche.

In another bowl, whip cream until stiff peaks form and fold into wild blueberry mixture.

Line a 500-ml (2-cup) deep dish with ladyfingers. Spoon wild blueberry mixture over ladyfingers and spread evenly. Cover and refrigerate for about 4 hours or until set.

Turn out Charlotte onto serving plate and garnish with reserved wild blueberries and mint.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

LiquidAssets

Peter Rockwell

metronews.ca/liquidassets

Battle of the Bobs

'd hoped that after Sideways hit theatres in 2004 (with its blend of grapes, gripes and full frontal male nudity) we'd see more flicks about wine. No such luck. There was nary a glass on screen until last year's release of Bottle Shock.

Now out on DVD it's the feel-good tale of a mid-'70s tasting that pitted the best chardonnay and cabernet sauvignon from France against their perceived equivalents from California's Napa Valley. It ends (spoiler alert!) with the American's kicking the cork out of the French.

What makes it even more fun to watch at home is that you can taste along with the movie's theme of New World vs. Old World (and not break the bank) by focusing on the grapes rather than the specific (and very expensive) wines competing in the film.

Try this red option. Screen it while you have a battle of the Bobs: **California's Robert Mondavi's 2006 Private Selection Cabernet Sauvignon ($18.95 - $19.99)** against **France's Robert Giraud's 2006 Château Timberlay ($15.75 - $19.20)** merlot and cabernet blend.

Both are all about ripe fruit, broad flavours, balanced tannins and a love for grilled meats. Play the disc, taste them side by side and see which turns your corkscrew.

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.

Peter Rockwell is the everyman's wine writer, working in the liquor industry for more than 25 years and travelling the globe looking for something to fill his glass and put into words.

Blumer's grilling tips for pizza

Once you've had pizza on the grill, you'll never go back to regular pizza, says Bob Blumer of Glutton for Punishment on Food Network Canada.

Bob Blumer

Here are some of his tips from his latest book, Pizza on the Grill: 100 Fun & Fabulous Fire-Roasted Recipes:

- Preheat grill with all burners on medium.
- Prepare toppings, which must be either edible raw (i.e., cured meats or olives) or precooked (like shrimp and asparagus).
- Remove dough from refrigerator and let rise to room temperature. Sprinkle work surface with a handful of coarsely ground cornmeal (often sold as polenta). Roll out dough until it's very thin and brush both sides generously with olive oil.
- Pick up the dough by the two corners closest to you. In one motion, lay it down flat on the cooking grate from back to front, as you would a tablecloth. Close the lid and cook for about 3 minutes until bottom is golden brown.
- Remove dough from grill, flip it and spread the grilled side with sauce, toppings and cheese.
- Reset grill to indirect heat by turning off centre burner(s) — or one side if grill only has two burners — and turning the lit burner(s) to high. Set the pizza back on the cooking grate over the unlit section, close the lid and wait until the bottom is golden brown and the cheese is bubbly, 7 to 10 minutes.

QUEEN MARGARITA PIZZA: Spread crust with 250 ml (1 cup) crushed tomato sauce plus one crushed garlic clove. Top with 250 g (8 oz) sliced mozzarella and garnish with fresh basil leaves. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

BLISTERED CORN, ASPARAGUS AND PESTO PIZZA: In a skillet, saute 250 ml (1 cup) of fresh or frozen corn kernels, 10 asparagus spears cut into 5-mm (1/4-inch) pieces and a handful of chopped sun-dried tomatoes for 5 minutes. Spread crust with 250 ml (1 cup) pesto, add contents from saute pan, and top with 170 g (6 oz) sliced brie.

FORTY OLIVE AND PIMENTO PIZZA: Spread crust with 250 ml (1 cup) crushed tomato sauce. Add 40 pitted olives (a mixture of your favourites), a small sliced shallot and 50 ml (1/4 cup) pimentos. Top with 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) grated Manchego cheese.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NASA gives Colbert a workout

NASA has refused to name a room on the International Space Station after Stephen Colbert after he won a contest, but the government agency said Monday that it will name a high-tech treadmill after the Emmy winner instead. EONLINE.COM

Entertainment

Page goes pop

Ellen Page's Wikipedia entry says the Academy Award nominee will guest voice on The Simpsons on May 3 as a pop star called Alaska Nebraska.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

USS mixes everything but cowbell

USS (Ubiquitous Synergy Seeker)

Album: Questamation
Label: Smashing World Records
Rating: ●●½

WHAT THIS RECORD needs is more cowbell. Everything else is on this genre-bending CD. So why not cowbell? The duo who comprise USS have gone out of their way here to encompass all aspects of modern pop. One minute you think you've got some '70s keyboard progster on the spin, the next it's A Flock of Seagulls (sorry, that was below the belt). There's bad sci-fi space rock, scratching rap and hip-hop dance beats, Oasis-like psychedelia, old school funk and maybe even a hint of Blue Oyster Cult, not to mention rolling seascapes, crickets, howling coyotes and campfire crackles. This is a record that's sure to create lots of buzz (it actually started last year) and then ultimately turn everybody off.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Questamation is the new album from Ubiquitous Synergy Seeker.

Melissa McClelland

Album: Victoria Day
Label: Six Shooter/Universal
Rating: ●●●½

NOW'S THE TIME to stock up on summer albums for those long drives to the cottage, and Melissa McClelland's latest deserves a top spot on the iPod. The Hamilton-based songstress delivers a lush collection of layered country tunes and orchestral jazz-tinged numbers, all delivered in her spectacularly honeyed voice. While it's not Earth-shattering stuff — she plays it fairly safe on most tunes — it's still a comprehensive and moving listen. This album is a bonus for fans of Luke Doucet, who produced the disc and is married to McClelland, as his twangy sheen is all over the record.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

k-os

Album: Yes
Label: Universal
Rating: ●●●½

SINCE KHEAVEN BRERETON released his first record in 2003, he's been masterfully melding rock, hip-hop and R&B into a thought-provoking cross-genre soup of sounds. On his latest, however, the Trinidadian-born, Toronto-raised musician dives full force into rap, leaving the more "rock" rhymes to Emily Haines, Nelly Furtado and other Canadian artists. Yes is probably k-os' most focused, and intriguing record to date. Minimalist electro-drums on Astronaut, the Love Buzz bass line on Uptown Girl, and a weird use of the OC's theme song prove that even though there aren't any big riffs, Brereton's still got plenty of tricks up his sleeve.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

John Doe and The Sadies

Album: Country Club
Label: Outside
Rating: ●●●½

THIS IS A record brimming with guilty pleasures. It's for all those who secretly admit to loving the music of Roger Miller, Porter Wagoner, Ray Price, Hank Snow, Merle Haggard and Bobby Bare. The songs are pure countrypolitan, a style of music that took hold of Nashville in the '60s as producers attempted to take country music uptown. The Sadies arrangements, however, have stripped the songs down to their original demo versions — glorious pedal steel the only embellishment. No strings or choral accompaniments here. And the song selections are brilliant. Instead of the obvious, like King Of The Road, they've taken Miller's Husbands And Wives, instead of Stand By Your Man, they've taken Tammy Wynette's Til I Get It Right. John Doe's vocals are near perfect, especially on the Kristofferson masterpiece Help Me Make It Through The Night.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

MusicReviews

music@metronews.ca

Billy Ray Cyrus

Album: Back To Tennessee
Label: Disney/Universal
Rating: ●●

DOES THIS MAN have no shame? It's not so much that Billy Ray Cyrus is trying to kickstart his dead-end career on the back of his mega-rich daughter, but it's the fact that he's actually gone ahead and released a mainstream country album on the Disney label. Does he honestly think that legions of Hannah Montana fans are going to rush out and buy this CD simply because their idol was spawned from his seed? Some of them will no doubt find comfort in the fact that the biggest hit on the album is the "bonus track" Butterfly Fly Away, a duet with Miley. To be fair, there are some decent tracks, especially the down tempo He's Mine and the rocker Love Is The Lesson. But others like Thrillbilly and Country As Country Can Be are rendered laughable by the fact that we'll be seeing Billy Ray on the Family Channel as soon as the kids come home from school.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Listen to this week's reviewed music at metronews.ca/music

Earlier release date for Harry Potter

Harry Potter and his school chums are heading back to class a little sooner than expected. Warner Bros. says Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince is opening Wednesday, July 15, two days earlier than its previous release date. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Who'll conquer Twitter?

CNN-Kutcher battle for microblog domination heats up

The race for one million followers on Twitter is on: In one corner is CNN and, in the other, Ashton Kutcher.

Just a few weeks ago, no one was close to reaching that benchmark. Now, as users have flocked to the increasingly popular microblogging site, the numbers have grown.

CNN's breaking news feed (www.twitter.com/cnnbrk) is in the lead with more than 937,000 followers as of noon yesterday. Britney Spears is second, with more than 903,000 followers, while Kutcher (www.twitter.com/aplusk) has seen his follower count grow to more than 888,000.

The 31-year-old actor recently threw down the gauntlet, challenging CNN and its founder, Ted Turner.

In a web video posted earlier this week, Kutcher said he would ding-dong-ditch Turner's house if he beat CNN to one million. (For those unfamiliar with the classic adolescent prank, ding-dong-ditch is when you ring someone's doorbell and run away.)

GETTY IMAGES

Ashton Kutcher, seen here with Demi Moore, is up against CNN for the most number of Twitter followers.

"I find it astonishing that one person can actually have as big of a voice online as what an entire media company can on Twitter," Kutcher said in a video he posted on qik.com. "I just thought that was kind of an amazing comment on the state of our media."

Kutcher later promised a Guitar Hero video game to his millionth follower, before quickly realizing it would be difficult to identify such a person.

In postings on Twitter, Kutcher said he was fielding interview requests, including one from CNN's Larry King. As of Tuesday afternoon, he was mulling the offers and claiming it was a "saga for the Internet," not TV.

"Do you think you can take on an entire network? Do you know what CNN is? Kutcher, you're playing out of your field."
CNN's Larry King

Not to be outdone, King posted a video on YouTube boasting the wrath of his company and sounding a lot like Ned Beatty's TV network chairman character in the film Network.

Said King: "Are you kidding? Do you think you can take on an entire network? Do you know how big we are? Do you know what CNN is? Kutcher, you're playing out of your field. You're in another time zone. This ain't gonna work. CNN will bury you!"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Clothing firm strikes back at Allen

A clothing company known for its racy ads is fighting a $10 million lawsuit brought by Woody Allen, arguing that it can't have damaged his reputation by using his image because the film director has already ruined it himself.

The 73-year-old Allen started the fight against American Apparel Inc. when he sued the company last year for using his image on the company's billboards in Hollywood and New York and on a website.

Allen, who does not endorse products in the United States, said he had not authorized the displays, which the Los Angeles-based company said were up for only a week.

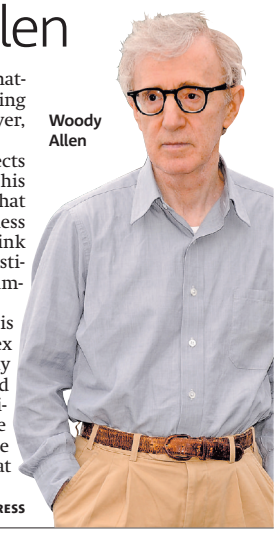
"Woody Allen expects $10 million for use of his image on billboards ... I think Woody Allen overestimates the value of his image."
American Apparel lawyer Stuart Slotnick

Now the company plans to make Allen's relationship to actress Mia Farrow and her adopted daughter Soon-Yi Previn the focus of a trial scheduled to begin in federal court in Manhattan on May 18, according to the company's lawyer, Stuart Slotnick.

"Woody Allen expects $10 million for use of his image on billboards that were up and down in less than one week. I think Woody Allen overestimates the value of his image," Slotnick said.

"Certainly, our belief is that after the various sex scandals that Woody Allen has been associated with, corporate America's desire to have Woody Allen endorse their product is not what he may believe it is."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Woody Allen

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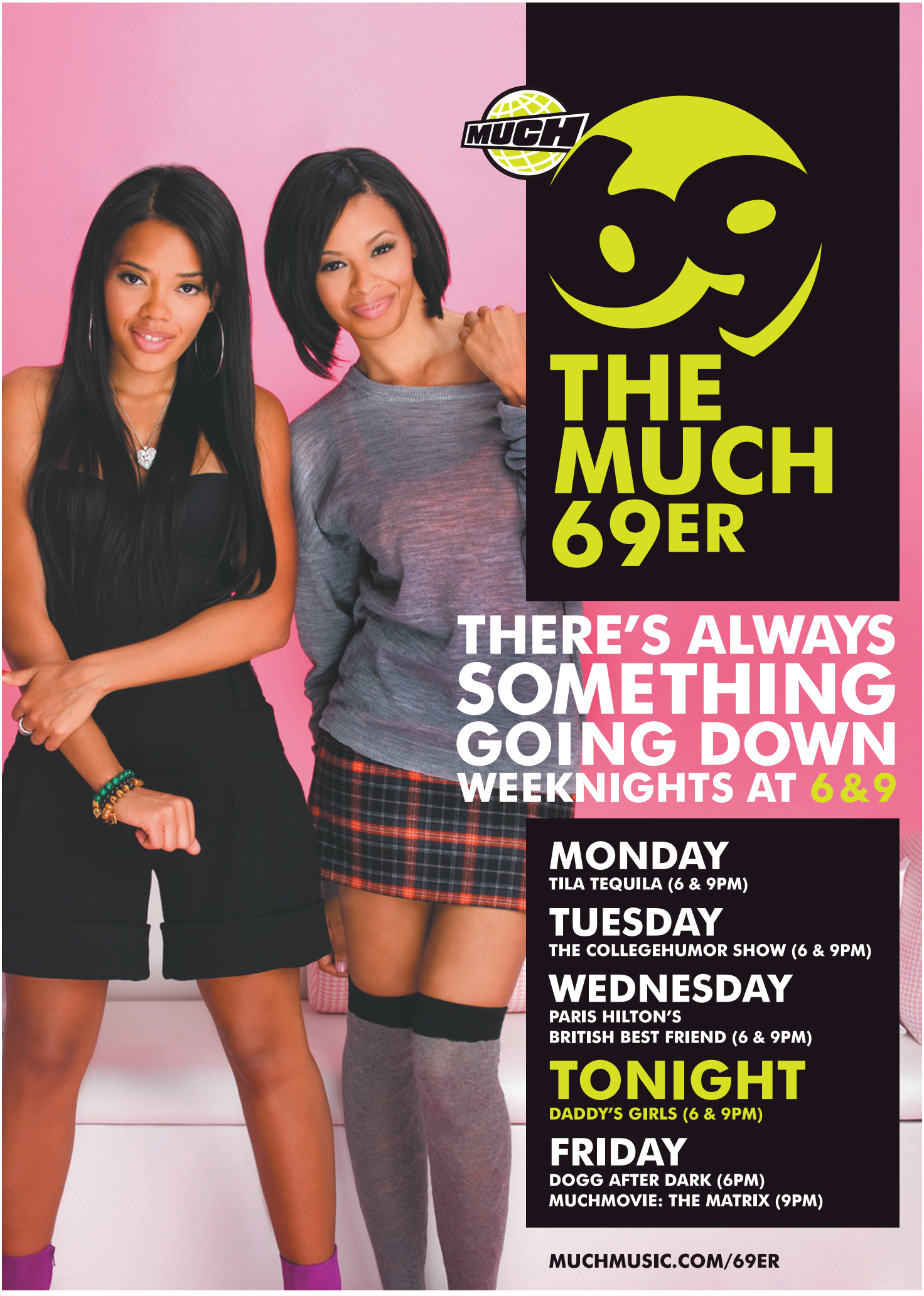
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PLANET MAURIE PHOTO
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McClelland finds retro-roots voice

GRAHAM ROCKINGHAM
for Metro Canada

Melissa McClelland has always been open to new styles of music. What she needed was a focus. She found it through a few months in Nashville and a new home in Hamilton.

Over the years, the Burlington, Ont., raised singer-songwriter has backed up pop mega-star Sarah McLachlan, sang for flamenco guitarist Jesse Cook, crooned with Vancouver rocker Matthew Good, collaborated with alt-country veterans Blue Rodeo and worked daytime TV with 10-year-old star Daniel Cook.

Her debut solo album, Stranded in Suburbia (2004), was aimed at the pop charts and got plenty of air time on stations like Mix and CHUM FM. Her second album, Thumbellina's One Night Stand, (2006) was more of a collage, featuring pop, country, folk and cabaret.

"I was so happy with the way the last album turned out, but it was a transition record," McClelland says. "I was trying to find out where I was going with my songwriting. I was trying out the whole roots thing and it was feeling really good but it hadn't really taken shape yet."

On her new CD, Victoria Day, that focus takes shape in a retro-roots way. Although the 12 tracks on the album are all originals, they have a distinctive sound that resides in the late '50s torch songs of Patsy Cline and Peggy Lee.

McClelland says she absorbed the country roots sound while living in Nashville with her husband/producer Luke Doucet for a few months in 2006.

The key tracks on the CD, however, focus on McClelland's return home from her brief flirtation with Music City. The couple started off living in an apartment in Toronto and then purchased a house in Hamilton. The two-part title track, Victoria Day, follows the move lyrically, starting off where "the devil lives in Christie Pits" and moving to "Steeltown" and "a big old house with too many floors and ghosts for every story we've never told."

The move started out bumpy in the early spring of last year, but was pretty much finished by Victoria Day. Hence the title.

"We moved into a beautiful old house that came with its own set of issues," McClelland says. "There were bats and squirrels living there. The walls were crumbling and everything was falling apart. We put a tremendous amount of work into it. But it's all good now."

SIX SHOOTER RECORDS
Although the 12 tracks on Melissa McClelland's new album Victoria Day are all originals, they have a distinctive sound that resides in the late '50s torch songs of Patsy Cline and Peggy Lee.

McClelland live

• McClelland plays music from her new CD, which was released this week, with two shows tonight (7:30 and 10 p.m.) at the Dakota Tavern.

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Tori tackles rumours

Tori Spelling knows her slim figure has been the subject of rumours — and now the mom of two addresses speculation that she's battling an eating disorder. "Oh my God, I'm not anorexic," Spelling tells People in a new interview. PEOPLE.COM

Austria jails woman for threatening CSI's Caruso

An Austrian court has convicted a woman of threatening CSI: Miami star David Caruso and sentenced her to seven months in jail in a secure psychiatric unit, officials said yesterday.

A court in the western city of Innsbruck handed down the sentence Tuesday, court spokesman Thomas Lechner said. Lawyer Andreas Grabenweger said his client will appeal the ruling.

Prosecutors said the woman, identified only as Heidemarie S., allegedly sent more than 100 letters to the American actor in pursuit of an autograph and then sent a death threat in 2007 when he refused to give her one. A court-appointed psychiatrist testified earlier that the woman has a "profound personality disorder."

The woman, who is in her early 40s, twice failed to show up for her trial and was taken into custody last month after she was arrested in Mexico on immigration charges and deported back to Austria.

Caruso plays Miami police Lt. Horatio Caine in the CBS television network crime drama.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

David Caruso

Nicollette claims that Edie was targeted

TELEVISION Nicollette Sheridan says her Desperate Housewives character faced something more dangerous than a deranged husband.

The actress claims the show's creator had it in for Edie Britt. Sheridan told TV Guide magazine that Edie must represent somebody that Desperate Housewives creator Marc Cherry didn't like and that he had trouble "distinguishing between fact and fiction."

JASON MERRITT/GETTY IMAGES

Nicollette Sheridan

When last seen, Edie had crashed her car while trying to flee her husband. The ABC drama picks up the story in Sunday's episode, with Edie mourned by her Wisteria Lane neighbours.

Cherry told TV Guide that the show has been under pressure to cut costs, with the magazine estimating that Sheridan's departure will save up to $200,000 US per episode.

Cherry also says in TV Guide's April 20 issue that Edie's story and sexual escapades had run their course. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Archuleta, Lovato touring together
Squeaky clean tween dreams Demi Lovato and David Archuleta are set to hit the road together this summer, teaming up for a nationwide tour. EONLINE.COM

Beck effect takes hold

Humour, outrage make Fox show a sensation

As he was working himself into a lather on the set at Fox News Channel last week, Glenn Beck picked up a gasoline can. He pretended he was President Barack Obama pouring gasoline on the American people, as he emptied the can (filled with water) on a shivering actor and lit a match.

It was one of Beck's "crank up the crazy and rip off the knob" moments, to borrow the words of Stephen Colbert.

Depending on your politics, the monologue was either absurd or astute. Either way, it was undeniably entertaining television — the kind of jaw-dropper you rarely see on a cable news network and an example of an overlooked reason why Beck's show has been a sensation since he started at Fox in January.

"If Charlie Rose was the way to get your point across, Charlie Rose would have higher ratings," Beck said in an interview less than two hours after putting away the gas can. "Just because you are funny or make your point in an entertaining way is no reason to dismiss that point."

Must-see moments are following Beck, even inadvertent ones: A college professor on as a guest passed out and fell to the floor Monday, in a clip quickly passed around the Internet.

Beck is appointment television for Robert Lehman, a stay-at-home dad who lives in Wichita, Kan. He's a regular even though he's a Democrat who considers Beck a "nut."

"It's very difficult to describe why you watch him," Lehman said. "But it is captivating. It's an interesting show and it moves very quickly."

From his start at Fox in mid-January, Beck's 5 p.m. EDT show averaged more than 2.2 million viewers through March 29, according to Nielsen Media Research.

That's more than twice what Fox had in the time slot a year ago.

Except for Bill O'Reilly and Sean Hannity, Beck has more viewers than any other cable news show and he's on at a time many people are at work.

Both men would shiver at the comparison but Beck is similar to MSNBC's Keith Olbermann in the way they mix outrage and humour to create addictive TV.

Ben Jensen, a marketer from Highland, Utah, who tries to watch Beck every day, said he appreciates Beck's honesty and willingness to speak up to the powerful.

"If I look at some of the things he says hypercritically, I could tear it apart and say this guy is out of his mind," Jensen said. "But if I look at it as an objective person, even someone who agrees with him, he's funny. He's just trying to stir up some laughter."

Not everyone is laughing.

"There's a difference between ludicrous and humorous," said Erikka Knuti, a spokeswoman for the liberal watchdog Media Matters for America. "It isn't called the Glenn Beck Comedy Show,' so there's an expectation of news."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shake 'n Beck

- Beck, 45, largely advances libertarian views and has opposed government bailouts. He uses striking language and imagery, saying Obama is leading the country toward "a brand of nonviolent fascism."
- At one point, he ran a picture of Adolf Hitler that switched to one of Obama and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown. He described the nation's government as "full of vampires that are trying to suck the life blood out of the economy."
- He has likened the stimulus package to the ``nanny state" and even slavery.

primetime — 4/16/09

TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	265	353	2	TVO	Mighty Movers		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		London Hospital		Masterworks Frida Kahlo. (N)		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Survivor: Tocantins (N)		The Office (N)	Kink in Hair	(10:01) Harper's Island (N)		News
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere II	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	NHL Hockey Playoffs -- Teams TBA. (HDTV) (Live)					National	NHL Hockey Playoffs -- Teams TBA.		
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		In Motherhood	Parks-Recreat	30 Rock	30 Rock	Hell's Kitchen (N)		News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Hollywood	Law & Order: SVU		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Southland (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Name Is Earl	10 Items-Less	My Fabulous Gay Wedding		Party Monsters: Cabo		News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama		Au delà des apparences		*Allemagne année zéro* (1947, Drame)			Folie-aventure	Volt
	-	-	14	-	Raymond	Raymond	News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	Smallville "Requiem"		Supernatural (HDTV)		To Serve and Protect		Becker
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Survivor: Tocantins (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		(10:01) Harper's Island (N)		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Name Is Earl	Parks-Recreat	The Office (N)	30 Rock	Southland (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	In Motherhood	Samantha Who	Grey's Anatomy		(10:02) Private Practice		News (N)
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Old Christine	Samantha Who	America's Next Top Model		(10:02) Private Practice		News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		Hell's Kitchen (N)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Goodnight Swt.	Doc Martin "In Loco"		Story of God		MI-5 "Blood & Money"		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Smallville "Requiem"		Supernatural (HDTV)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV) (N)		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332	TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Smallville
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report		CNBC Reports (HDTV)		Swoosh! Inside Nike		On the Money		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	TBA	To Be Announced						Sportsnet Con.	Sportsnet Con.
	400	400	30	TSN	Hockey: U18	NHL Hockey Playoffs -- Teams TBA. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		
	411	457	58	OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Departures		Mantracker		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Departures
	417	406	81	SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Pinks -- All Out (HDTV)		Bullrun (HDTV)		Bullrun (HDTV) (N)		Pimp My Ride
family	551	542	25	YTV	True Jackson	H2O, Just Add	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	In Real Life		Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	*Ultimate Avengers: The Movie* (2006)			*Ultimate Aveng*
	556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Divine Design	House	Confidential	Save Us-House	Divine Design	Love It-List It	House
	570	580	29	MM	The O.C.		Technical Diff.	Technical Diff.	Daddy's Girls	Degrassi: TNG	Live at Much Beyoncé.		Video on Trial
	615	520	31	A&E	The First 48 "Gone"		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV) (N)		The Beast "Counterfeit"		The Beast
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	*Night Club* ★ (1989, Suspense) Nicholas Hoppe, Ed Trotta.				Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36	MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Mariah Carey: Mimi		Entourage	Gene Simmons	The Daily Fix
	575	583	38	CMT	Totally	Totally	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Coyote Ugly
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		Love-Death	Love-Death	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	*Crank* ★★ (2006, Action) Jason Statham.		
	620	523	40	BVO	Camera	Snapshot	Bathroom Divas-Opera Star		Last Call at the Gladstone Hotel (N)			Life Through	Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	X-Weighted "Jeremy"		X-Weighted "Sharla"		X-Weighted		ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Identity Crisis"		Ancient Discoveries		Go Deep "Subshop"		NCIS "Identity Crisis"		Sea Hunters
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	VIP	House Party	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Holmes in New Orleans		Disaster DIY	Big Amazing	House Hunters	House Hunters	HolmesOrleans
	294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	*The Last Boy Scout* ★★★ (1991, Action)		
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Undisputed* ★★ (2002, Drama) Wesley Snipes.				College Hill	The Game	*Undisputed*
	627	528	50	SPC	Stormworld	Grand Star	Star Trek: Voyager		Ghost Hunters		Chuck (HDTV) (N)		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	Mom & Dad	After	MTV News	Cribs	The Hills	The Hills	Taking the Stage (N)		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Vanity Insanity	Inside Hollywood		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	Married... With	Seinfeld
	603	561	56	FOOD	Chef at Home	Exotic	Restaurant Makeover		Chef Jeff Project (N)		Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Chef Abroad
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Wait for God	'Allo, 'Allo!	*Francis of Assisi* ★★★ (1961, Biography), Dolores Hart				Poltergeist
	621	527	63	STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	etalk	American Idol Extra (N)		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Comfy Couch	Zigby	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101	TVA	Dépenses xtr	Histoires-filles	La Classe de 5e (HDTV) (SC)		Destination Nor'Ouest (SC)		TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	126	730	102	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	VIVA	Judging Amy "Legacy"		Most Haunted "Sutton House"		Most Haunted		Passion	Homicide File	Psychic Inv.
	300	601	301	M1	(7:15) *The Last Winter* ★★★ (2006, Suspense)				Sold Out: A Threevening With Kevin Smith Raunchy anecdotes. (N)				
	305	612	306	PIX	*Blindside*	*Column South* ★★ (1953, Western)			*Ocean's Eleven* ★★★ (2001, Comedy-Drama)				*Chasing Amy*

critics'corner

Last Call at the Gladstone Hotel
What could have been a Cinderella story of a historic old building restored to its former glory is instead a compelling commentary on the effects of gentrification. Neil Graham and Derreck Roemer chronicle five years in the life of the Toronto hotel, a flophouse whose new owners attempt to transform it into a hip hangout, to the dismay of the longtime residents and staff. Let's just say things don't go according to plan. 9 PM on BVO

The Last Winter
They're definitely not in Texas anymore, Toto. "Friday Night Lights" co-stars Connie Britton and Zach Gilford are among the cast of this 2006 horror tale that's chilling in more ways than one. Ron Perlman plays the leader of an oil company's advance team dispatched to the Arctic to await suitable conditions for drilling. But there's something lurking under the ice, and it isn't happy with these intruders. Kevin Corrigan also appears. 7:15 PM on M1

Blagojevich eyes reality show

TV A lawyer close to Rod Blagojevich's legal team says the ousted Illinois governor wants permission to leave the United States to appear on a reality TV show in Costa Rica. Blagojevich, who pleaded not guilty to federal racketeering and fraud charges Tuesday, could tape the show in June if given permission by Judge James Zagel.

Law & Order: SVU returning for 11th

TV NBC is renewing Law & Order: Special Victims Unit for another year. Series creator and executive producer Dick Wolf said Tuesday he's "thrilled" the crime drama will return for its 11th season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya's Style
Kenya Hunt
Read the blog at metronews.ca/kenyasstyle

For complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and tickets, visit: metronews.ca/movies

Governor Pratt?
Turns out that Hills star Spencer Pratt has political aspirations. "I don't know if I'll be getting elected any time in the next century or so, but I'm definitely going after mayor of L.A. and at least governor," Pratt says, according to Pop Sugar. METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity Buzz

Jackson's toy auction called off

INCOME Looks like that big auction of Michael Jackson's toys and trinkets from Neverland Ranch isn't happening. The singer had originally agreed to the auction to help pay off his massive debts, but cancelled it after booking a series of high-paying shows in London. Now, as part of a settlement with Julien's Auction House, Jackson gets to keep the nearly 2,000 items, according to TMZ. METRO WORLD NEWS

Shia undergoes another surgery

HEALTH Shia LeBeouf is on the third surgery for the injury he sustained in a car accident last year — and he says he'll never fully regain use of his left hand. "I'll be able to make a fist again," the actor tells Entertainment Weekly. "There's a knuckle I'll never be able to move again, but that's probably the only permanent damage." METRO WORLD NEWS

Geri's already found a new man

DATING Her engagement to tycoon Fabrizio Politi ended a month ago, but Geri Halliwell has already found somebody new. The former Spice Girl was caught canoodling with British aristocrat Henry Beckwith on a luxurious ski trip in France, according to the Daily Mail. METRO WORLD NEWS

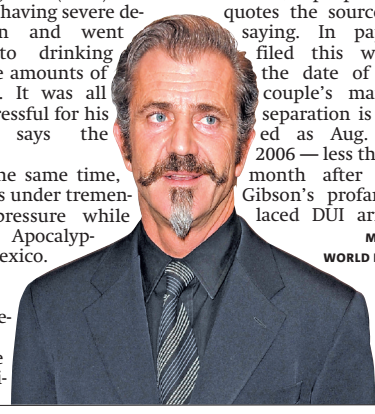
Tense home gave away Mel's marriage troubles

DIVORCE A source close to Mel and Robyn Gibson — who this week announced they were divorcing after 28 years of marriage — alleges that the atmosphere in the couple's home was often a giveaway that things were not right between the couple, people.com reports.

"The tension between Mel and Robyn was obvious. Even during family dinners, they wouldn't speak sometimes. Robyn would pretend that everything was perfect. No one would ever dare to ask her how she and Mel were doing," the source tells People.

The problems seemed to become evident three years ago, the magazine alleges. "During the summer of 2005 the whole family had a great time hanging out at the Gibson's Malibu beach house, but at the beginning of (2006), Mel started having severe depression and went back to drinking massive amounts of alcohol. It was all very stressful for his wife," says the source.

"At the same time, Mel was under tremendous pressure while filming Apocalypto in Mexico. The movie got delayed because of terrible rainstorms... Mel's drinking got out of control because it was very difficult for him to deal with the pressure of producing the movie," people.com quotes the source as saying. In papers filed this week, the date of the couple's marital separation is listed as Aug. 26, 2006 — less than a month after Mel Gibson's profanity-laced DUI arrest. METRO WORLD NEWS



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Economy may hamper Britney's tour plans

LEGALITIES Britney Spears' father has been seeking permission from a judge to expand the pop star's current Circus tour — but the dour economy may hamper those plans, it was revealed in a Los Angeles courtroom Tuesday, people.com reports.

The pop star, 27, is halfway into a 49-show tour through Canada, the U.S. and the U.K., with hopes to add more dates through Europe, Australia and a possible second U.S. tour. "It hasn't yet been determined whether it's feasible to expand tours to the Europe or Australia legs," L.A. Superior Court Commissioner Reva Goetz said following a closed-door discussion with Jamie and his lawyers. "That will be determined in the future after everyone's seen the analysis, in terms of the economy and value of the dollar," Goetz added.

Spears and another lawyer hold indefinite legal control over his daughter following her two forced hospitalizations last year. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Paris is up for online excellence award

SEND-UP Paris Hilton's presidential campaign has been nominated for an award, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The socialite's spoof Paris for President online videos — made in response to an ad referring to the blond star in Senator John McCain's campaign — is up for a Webby Award, which recognizes excellence on the Internet. Hilton's clip, produced for FunnyOrDie.com, is nominated for Best Comedy: Individual Short. Other nominees include Jack Black, Rashida Jones and Neil Patrick Harris for Prop 8: The Musical — which is also up for best writing — and Rob Corddry's Children's Hospital starring Megan Mullally. Voting is open to anyone at pv.webbyawards.com until April 30, and the winners will be announced on May 5. The winners of the 13th annual Webby Awards will be honoured at a gala in New York on June 8, hosted by Saturday Night Live star Seth Myers. METRO NEWS SERVICES

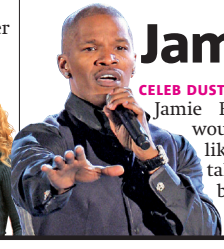
Drew, Justin are on again

ROMANCE Drew Barrymore showed up to the premiere of her new HBO film, Grey Gardens, with a familiar face tagging along: On-again, off-again boyfriend Justin Long.

The two are supposedly not currently dating, though they are set to work together again in the upcoming Going the Distance.

But just because she brought Long along doesn't mean Barrymore wants to talk about it. When asked by Us Weekly what it was like having Long there, the actress smiled and quickly rushed into the theatre with co-star Jessica Lange without saying a word. METRO WORLD NEWS

Jamie apologizes for picking on Miley



CELEB DUST-UPS Jamie Foxx would like to take back some of the things that he said about Miley Cyrus — like that she should release a sex tape and take drugs. "I so apologize, and this is sincere," Foxx said while visiting Jay Leno's talk show. "I am a comedian, and you guys know that whatever I say, I don't mean any of it. And sometimes, as comedians, as we do, we go a little bit too far." In other Cyrus news, the Hannah Montana star is being honored by Peta2, the youth outreach arm of PETA. The group has decided to give Cyrus a Compassionate Citizen Award for her work with animals on her latest movie. METRO WORLD NEWS

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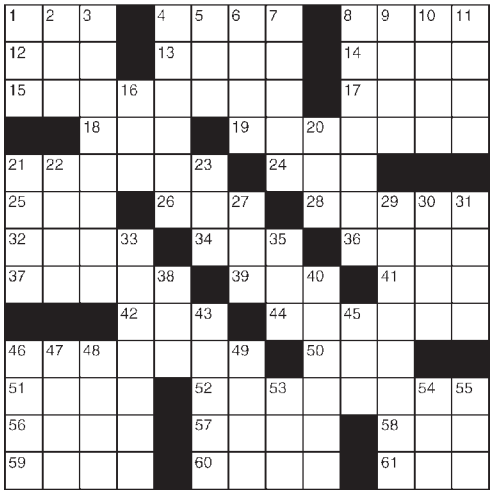

Crossword across

1 Auction action
4 Presentation
8 A-number-1
12 Blackjack component
13 Emanation
14 Make a lasting impression?
15 JFK or LBJ, e.g.
17 Waikiki wingding
18 Rowing need
19 Granting permission
21 Cold season
24 Uncivilized
25 "— was saying..."
26 Fix the soundtrack
28 Doppler device
32 Heckle
34 Space
36 Bigfoot's cousin
37 Nerdy guy
39 Joke
41 Oft-tattooed word
42 Branch
44 Four-poster
46 Montgolfier transport
50 Torched
51 Margarine
52 Wreck
56 "— it romantic?"
57 History chapters
58 Not paleo-
59 Oodles
60 Lomond is one
61 Wander about

Crossword down

1 Awful
2 "Rocks"
3 Portray as satanic
4 Holy
5 "Ben- —"
6 Exam format
7 "Just add —"
8 D.C. social world
9 Needle case
10 Read briefly
11 Hoodlum
16 Feedbag bit
20 Paving gunk
21 Hospital section
22 "— Mommy Kissing Santa Claus"
23 Obvious hairpiece
27 Satchel
29 Reducing in rank
30 On
31 Frost-covered
33 Ardent enthusiasts
35 — -10 Conference
38 Street address?
40 Overshoe
43 Runway VIP
45 Zilch
46 Seethe
47 As well
48 Fast time?
49 Infamous lyre player
53 Singer Davis
54 The Red or the Black
55 Coal carrier

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

5	8					3		9
	6	1	9				8	4
3			7	8			6	
			3		4	8	9	
		3		9		6		
	1	5	8		6			
	3			2	7			6
4	7				8	1	5	
2		6					3	8

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

1	3	7	8	9	2	6	4	5
4	2	5	3	6	1	7	8	9
6	9	8	4	7	5	1	2	3
8	1	9	2	5	6	4	3	7
7	6	2	1	4	3	9	5	8
5	4	3	7	8	9	2	6	1
9	7	4	6	3	8	5	1	2
3	5	1	9	2	4	8	7	6
2	8	6	5	1	7	3	9	4

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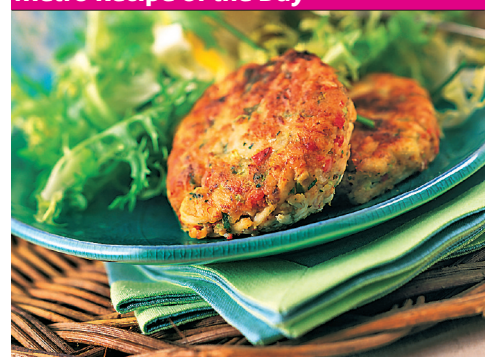
SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min.....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Chesapeake Crab Cakes

INGREDIENTS:
1/2 cup fresh bread crumbs
1 celery stalk with leaves, finely chopped
1/3 cup finely chopped and seeded red pepper
2 tbsp (25 ml) minced shallot
2 tbsp (25 ml) finely chopped parsley
2 tbsp (25 ml) coarse Dijon mustard
2 tbsp (25 ml) low-fat mayonnaise
2 large egg whites
1 tsp (5 ml) Old Bay seasoning
1 lb (500 g) lump crabmeat, picked through
1/3 cup (75 ml) all-purpose flour
2 tsp (10 ml) canola oil

METHOD:
1. Mix bread crumbs, celery, red pepper, shallot, parsley, mustard, mayonnaise, egg whites and Old Bay seasoning in large bowl. Fold in crabmeat.
2. Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C). Spread flour on waxed paper. Divide crab mixture into 8 mounds, then form into patties with floured hands. Dredge in flour.
3. Lightly coat non-stick frying pan with non-stick cooking spray and set over medium-high heat until hot but not smoking. Cook 4 crab cakes until brown, about 2 minutes on each side. Drizzle 1 tsp (5 ml) oil around crab cakes, gently shaking pan to spread oil, right after turning crab cakes over. Transfer to plate lined with paper towels. Repeat with remaining crab cakes and oil.
4. Lightly coat baking sheet with non-stick cooking spray, place crab cakes on sheet, and bake until very hot in centre, 8 to 10 minutes.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Deal with health issues one at a time. Jealousy makes you laugh. Count your blessings in an unbelievable situation.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A lazy person reveals deep-seated greed. Play it safe by speaking out. Limit your involvement with a sneaky old friend.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Be bold to defeat bashfulness. Trust affection to win over a friend. Say goodbye to a painful past.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Pardon an annoying coward who left a mess. An insulting accusation creates anxiety. An astounding dream leads you to good fortune.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
A problem will be solved if you play it cool. Defences could engage your fight-or-flight mechanism. Don't let a bad phone call ruin communication.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Try to hide some slobby personal habits. Unexpected demands widen your perspective. Change your tactics when mercy is shown.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A victory will be a vindication. A perplexing situation arises at the last minute. Maintain your silence about trashy treasures.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Reorganizing causes wonderful changes. Help a friend to take it easy. You can nurture hope for a sweetheart.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
A sentimental person exposes a new passion to you. Don't judge someone who lives in despair. Shake off your qualms by learning the facts.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Gambling causes a breach in a weak relationship. A shameless person is enthusiastic. There's a pointless argument over a ridiculous rule.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
You won't want to heed any cries for help. An oddball gets ignored in public. A judgmental woman ridicules signs of growing older.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A youngster wants you to take charge. The odds can be beaten. An entertaining adventurer attracts attention.

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GRADUATE REBATE PROGRAM

™The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trade marks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp., and used under licence. ♦Sale prices are calculated after deducting price adjustments off the lease/finance starting prices. Price adjustments are available on all 2009 Accent 3 Dr L of $3,600/2009 Elantra L 5-speed of $3,850/2009 Sonata GL I4 5-speed of $4,000/2009 Tucson L 5-speed of $3,200/2009 Santa Fe GL 2.7L FWD 5-speed of $4,000. Prices for models shown (after deducting price adjustment): 2009 Accent GL Sport 5-speed of $14,395/2009 Elantra GL Sport Package 5-speed of $17,895/2009 Sonata Limited of $27,995/2009 Tucson Limited of $27,495/2009 Santa Fe Limited of $32,445. Delivery and Destination charges of $1,495/$1,495/$1,565/$1,760/$1,760, registration, insurance, licence fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ‡Starting price for model shown: 2009 Elantra Touring GL with Sport Package 5-speed of $21,195. Price excludes Delivery and Destination charge of $1,495, applicable licence fees, insurance, registration and all taxes. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ◊Purchase financing available: O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services on 2009 Accent/2009 Elantra/2009 Sonata/2009 Tucson/2009 Santa Fe/2009 Elantra Touring models with a finance rate of 0%/0%/0%/0%/0%/2.55% for 36/36/48/48/48/72 month terms. Financing example: 2009 Tucson L 5-speed for $17,995 (after deducting the price adjustment) at 0% per annum equals $411.56 per month for 48 months for a total obligation of $19,755. Cash price is $21,995. Lease offers include Delivery and Destination ($1,495), Lease offers exclude applicable licence fees, insurance, registration, PPSA ($45) and taxes. $0 security deposit on all models. 20,000 km allowance per lease year. Additional charge of $0.10/km. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ♦♦(**)Offer ends March 31, 2009. Lease offers available for a limited time and subject to change or cancellation without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. ‡See your dealer for eligible vehicles and full details of the Graduate Rebate Program. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.